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Wednesday April 29 1998

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Interview with the Pulitzer prizewinner

**Alice Walker: at ease with her own contradictions**

G2 with European weather

Citizen Kane

**From cannibalism to amputation**

Arts, G2 page 10

Down on the farm

**Unhealthy use of antibiotics?**

Society, G2 page 12

# Wolfe's vanity deal ignites media bonfire

Joanna Coles in New York

THE New York literary world was seething with admiration and envy yesterday as it emerged that Tom Wolfe, whose talent as a writer is matched only by his skill for self-publicity, has netted a record sum — believed to be around $600,000 (£360,000) — for the serialisation rights to his untitled new novel.

The sum is unheard of for a magazine serialisation and the bidding took place in great secrecy. Only four magazine fiction editors were allowed access to the manuscript, and each had to sign an agreement not to divulge details of the most anticipated novel of the decade.

Though Mr Wolfe's publisher would not confirm who had won the rights, Rolling Stone magazine is understood to have outmanoeuvred Vanity Fair, Esquire and the New Yorker. The extracts will appear in its September issue.

Mr Wolfe's last book, Bonfire of the Vanities, reviewed as *the* satire of the 1980s, sold 700,000 copies in hardback, several million in paperback, spent 56 weeks on the hardback bestsellers list, and was turned into a film.

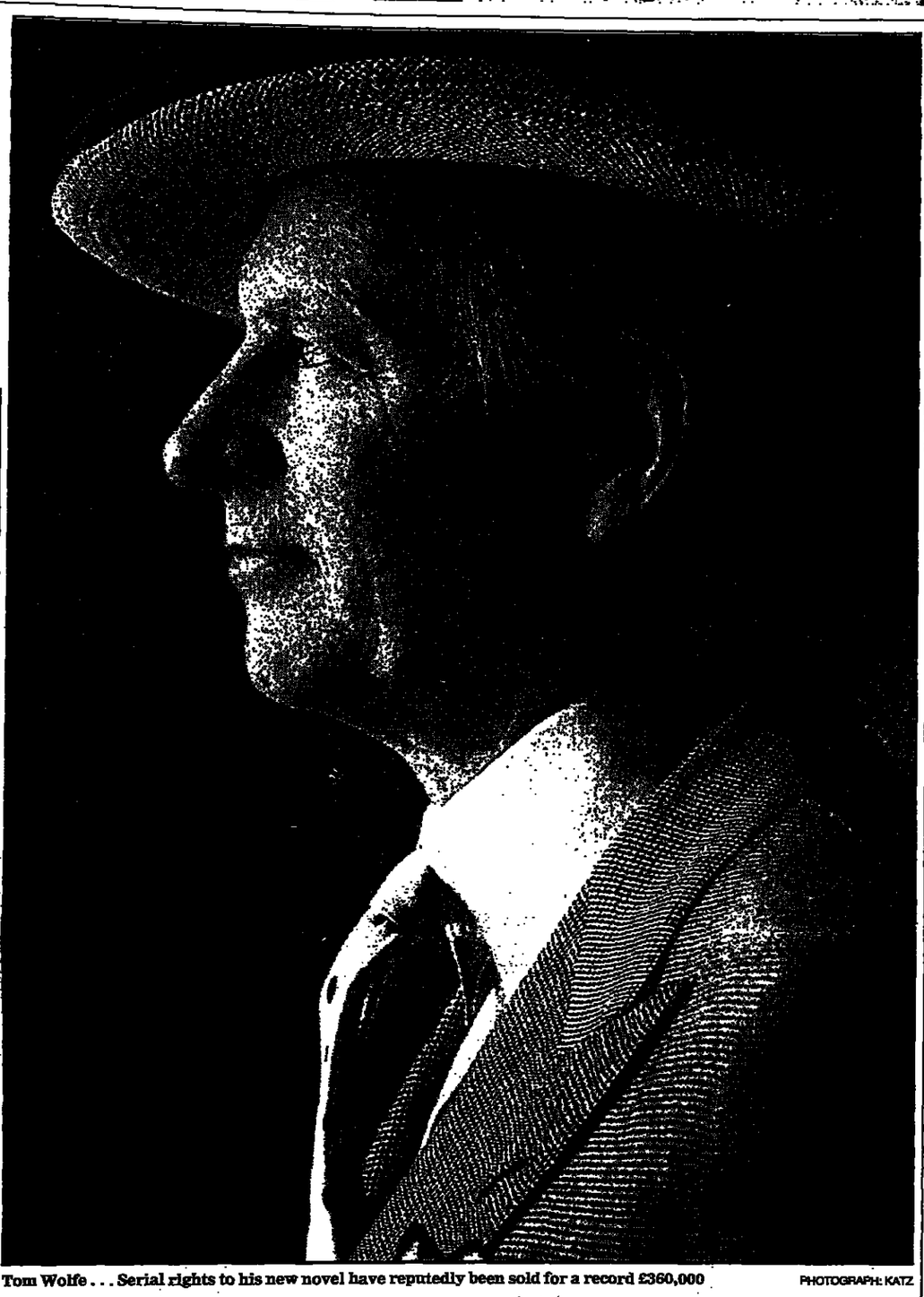
His latest volume has taken him nearly 12 years to complete. Having discarded the initial working title of The Mayflies, and flirted briefly with Chocolate City, he is now wrestling between Red Dogs and The Stoic's Game.

"For the last three years not a week has gone by when I haven't had someone call me about this book," said Jeff Seroy, Mr Wolfe's publicist at the publisher, Farrar Straus Giroux, one of the few people to have read the book, which relies for a backdrop on the property business. It is the most talked about novel in Manhattan, and gossip has been fuelled by the author's occasional, tantalising readings of a work-in-progress.

Mr Seroy said: "It's a work of genius. It's about rich and poor, black and white; it's about everything. It's very Tom."

In 1984, Mr Wolfe received $200,000 from Rolling Stone to serialise Bonfire of the Vanities, though the book was somewhat different when it was finally published. Though Mr Seroy confirmed the sum was a record, his agent, Lynn Nesbit, was believed to be have hoped for $1 million, and bidding was supposed to have started at $500,000.

Rolling Stone is likely to recoup the money in prestige rather than sales. Each contending magazine was asked to put forward a marketing plan explaining how it would promote the extracts, and how large a marketing budget it would provide. "It's vanity publishing", one publisher snapped. "They're never going to earn it back."



Tom Wolfe . . . Serial rights to his new novel have reputedly been sold for a record £360,000 PHOTOGRAPH: KATZ

# Funding blow to schools

John Carvel
Education Editor

DAVID Blunkett's attempt to extract billions of pounds of extra money for education from the Treasury's comprehensive spending review was undermined last night by Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools.

He said there was "no inspection evidence to suggest that schools as a whole are underfunded to do the job".

A tenth of primary schools and a quarter of secondaries did not have enough books and resources to deliver the national curriculum, but this was the result of mismanagement and unfair distribution of resources.

"What matters ultimately . . . is how teachers teach: not the quantity or sophistication of the resources they can employ or the modernity of the buildings in which they work," he told the rightwing think-tank Politeia.

Mr Woodhead acknowledged that he was in danger of trespassing on political territory. "Assume for the sake of argument that schools do have enough money to do an adequate job. Would they do a better job if the state invested more money in education? This is, of course, a difficult and intensely political question which I am very happy to leave to the collective wisdom of the Cabinet."

But he said he could not "bottle out altogether" from discussing resources. New funding would help to repair buildings and allow schools to update IT equipment, cut class sizes and buy extra books. "But we have to recognise that there is much that all of us within the world of education, from the Secretary of State down, can and must do to put our own house in order — which means thinking very hard about both funding mechanisms and teaching mechanisms."

Mr Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, had hoped to be a main beneficiary of the Whitehall spending review, which is setting priorities for the final three years of Labour's first term.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has indicated that education and health would be rewarded for prudent re-allocation of resources for the first two years of the administration. And Tony Blair has consistently demanded that the priorities of his administration should be "education, education, education".

However, inter-departmental arguments about how far the £37 billion education budget should be increased have not been resolved and the Government is not expected to announce its decisions until July. In these circumstances, Mr Woodhead's intervention may be regarded as distinctly unhelpful to Mr Blunkett.

As head of the Office for Standards in Education, a non-ministerial government department, Mr Woodhead is an independent "crown servant" outside the normal discipline of the civil service.

He said in his lecture last night that the distribution of money from government via local education authorities to schools was incomprehensible and unfair. As a result some pupils got double the resources available to others. "If a 1,200 pupil school had the misfortune to find itself one morning in Ealing when the night before it had been located comfortably in Brent . . . it would have lost £313,000."

Mr Woodhead gave implicit support for a national funding formula to iron out these differences. He said the Government and its agencies should "not be immune from the imperative that resources should be devolved from the centre to the school level". Other resource problems could largely be solved by eliminating mismanagement within schools.

Mr Woodhead praised teachers' increasing willingness to question cherished beliefs about teaching methods. "But a good number of high profile figures continue to resist these changes. There is a danger, too, that the focus on organisational issues — four or five term years — will mean we lose sight of the obvious truth that new modes of delivery will in themselves achieve absolutely nothing. What matters is what happens in the classrooms."

# Barristers hit back at Irvine

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE already poisoned relationship between the legal profession and Lord Irvine deteriorated further last night after figures were published showing that barristers earn up to £670,000 a year in legal aid payments.

Geoff Hoon, a minister in the Lord Chancellor's department, produced a list of the 20 top earners from civil legal aid and the 20 highest from criminal legal aid.

But Nigel Pascoe QC, the chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said the figures were "very misleading". Payments were for work covering more than one year, included VAT and represented turnover rather than annual earnings, because the expenses of practice had to be deducted, he said.

"Good barristers resent crude attempts to pillory them, instead of a fair examination of the true position."

Mr Hoon acknowledged that the payments did not represent annual income and could include payments received in other years, but aggregated with a final payment in 1996-97.

But Lord Irvine defended the lists, saying: "We believe in freedom of information, and we believe in freedom of information about what people earn from legal aid as well."

Relations were already strained over the Government's plans to withdraw legal aid from personal injury cases, which will force barristers, like solicitors, to do such cases (if at all), on a no-win, no-fee basis.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, a former barrister, and Lord Irvine have both deplored the fact that the top one percent of criminal cases, mainly fraud, absorb 40 per cent of the budget for Crown Court cases.

Yesterday's lists revealed that Andrew Trollope, a barrister who also sits as a part-

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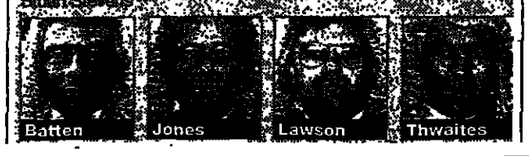
Barristers who received the highest criminal legal aid payments in 1996-97

Over £500,000
Alun Jones QC
Malcolm Swift QC
£450,000-£500,000
Peter Nash QC
Edward Cashman QC
Stephen Batten QC
Anthony Arlidge QC
Michael Hill QC
£400,000-£450,000
Ronald Thwaites QC
Andrew Trollope QC
Stuart Sievers

Barristers who received the highest legal aid payments for civil cases in 1996-97

Over £250,000
David Hood
John McDonnell QC
Daniel Brennan QC
£200,000-£250,000
David Allen QC
Richard Meeran QC
Judith Parker QC
Michael Short
Philip Hunter
Andrew Trollope QC



Batten Jones Lawson Thwaites

# Bush offered Ulster role

Jonathan Freedland

FORMER US President George Bush could emerge as an "economics tsar" for Northern Ireland, following a government suggestion that he lead an international effort to bring foreign investment to the province.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, made a private approach to Mr Bush before this month's Stormont agreement. He told Mr Bush he believed prosperity was the best guarantor of peace — and that the backing of an elder statesman with global business contacts would be a huge boost to Northern Ireland.

Mr Bush, who has taken up no formal post since his election defeat by Bill Clinton in 1992, has made no commitment, but government officials told the Guardian last night that a response was expected shortly. Such a move would be a major advance for the Yes campaign in the lead-up to the May 22 referendum, enabling it to argue that heavy investment could follow ratification of the accord.

As a Republican, with few direct ties to the Irish-American community, Mr Bush is also seen as a figure acceptable to Unionists — one who can reach US boardrooms so far untapped by the lobby for Northern Ireland.

The first approach was made last June. The former president and the Chancellor were passengers on the same flight from Denver to London — Mr Bush heading to Britain to see the Ryder Cup, Mr Brown returning from the G7 summit. At Mr Bush's request, the two men met in a VIP suite at Heathrow, where Mr Brown made his suggestion.

Even if Mr Bush were to keep his involvement informal it would still represent a dramatic change for the former president. Since leaving office he has kept his public duties to a minimum, promising to offer no backseat advice to his successor.

The wooing of the former president would clearly be a triumph for Mr Brown, who has confined his role in the peace process to the pursuit of economic prosperity.

In May 1995 President Clinton hosted a trade and investment conference in Washington, bringing together US business leaders and representatives of the province's main political parties.

US investment in Ulster reached a record $680 million in 1996/97, but American corporate chiefs have long said they would spend more if stability were guaranteed.

Jonathan Freedland, page 8

Inside

Britain
Labour's first year, Gary Mitchell, Andrew Motion's assessment of Alasdair Gray, Blair's government has left behind the impoverished town of Airdrie.
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World News
Large celebrated Saddam Hussein's birthday as the countdown began to the next crisis over the punitive sanctions. The UN inspects must remain in force.
Page 7

Finance
Tesco have been [illegible] that they could quickly [illegible] competitors as the company's [illegible] of the season which [illegible] borders.
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Sketch

# Treating Mr Hyde with faint disdain

Simon Hoggart

ALASTAIR Campbell came under genteel attack in the House of Lords yesterday.

As the great columnist Molly Ivins of Austin, Texas, said when she became an object of hatred and ridicule for the far-right radio host Rush Limbaugh, "it's like being gummed to death by a newt."

Those peers are just too darned nice. They are all the kind of people who say "Sorry" when you step on their toes.

The question about Mr Campbell had been asked by Lord Peyton of Yeovil, who as John Peyton used to be transport minister roughly at the time when the big transport issue was whether stage coaches could use smart cards to pay their turnpike tolls. Would the Government, he asked, define the role of the press secretary?

This was courteous code for "Why does this whipper-snapper Campbell think he can send rude faxes to ministers telling them what to do — it would never have happened in my day?"

Lord McIntosh, for the Government, said stolidly that Mr Campbell existed to give out the essential messages, the key themes, and to sustain and co-ordinate these across government — whatever that meant.

Lord Peyton asked whether his real job was to stop Tony Blair from getting involved in unpleasantness — "to play Mr Hyde to the Prime Minister's Dr Jekyll?"

This was perfectly correct. Mr Campbell is, to put it another way, Oddjob, or else that chap with the steel teeth, working for whichever villain you care to name. As Tony Blair ought to say, "I myself abhor any unpleasantness, Mr Bond, but I regret that my associate Mr Campbell is less fastidious . . ."

Labour peers, who don't like Alastair Campbell much either, but hope in some cases to be ministers themselves, opted for galumphing comedy.

Lord Janner asked whether Lord McIntosh would have a word with Sir Bernard Ingham — Margaret Thatcher's old press secretary — and ask him "how he could run his office in a more reticent and self-effacing way". (House of Lords irony tends to be splattered on with a paint roller.)

Lord McIntosh moved into hyper-sarcasm. Bernard Ingham had been a civil servant. He had always refrained from any activities which could possibly be called party political, and had certainly never made any statements which reflected on the quality of ministers in the Thatcher government.

This was a reference to John Biffen, who Sir Bernard once famously called "a semi-detached member of the government." Now, as Lord Biffen, he sat on the Tory benches looking fully detached, indeed utterly uninterested. He resembled what estate agents go on to describe as "ready for vacant possession."

Lord Strathclyde, a Tory front-bencher, wondered whether Mr Campbell's rude faxes to Harriet Harman and Frank Field had been cleared with the Prime Minister. Lord McIntosh said that he did not deny the importance of Alastair Campbell — "it is more than my job is worth to do so.

"As for his faxes to ministers, they were made with the full authority of the Prime Minister."

The peers gasped — or would have gasped if they were hale enough to do anything so energetic. Instead they expressed their astonishment with a deep, sad, subterranean sigh, as if 80 of them had all died at once.

Review

# Sober stance, flagrant style

Andrew Clements

**Ivo Pogorelich**
Royal Festival Hall

ONLY the hairstyle, tied back into a neat bob, now hints at the flamboyant figure that Ivo Pogorelich used to present on the platform. But though his demeanour at the piano has become utterly sober and restrained, his playing still retains the capacity to frustrate, infuriate and delight in roughly equal proportions, although last night the first two qualities tended to outweigh the third.

When Pogorelich first erupted on to the international concert circuit by failing to win the Warsaw Chopin Competition in 1980, he seemed to be a pianist of limitless potential. The occasional wilfulness seemed a small price to pay for such sovereign keyboard command, such an opulent range of tone, colour and touch.

But though the technique has remained intact, the wilfulness has grown; sometimes it remains under control as an attractive quirkiness that does not destroy the integrity of his performances, but all too often it devours his interpretations, leaving little but a series of provocative effects.

It certainly made short work of the set of Chopin's preludes that made up the first half of this programme. Along the way there were things to admire, musical as well as purely technical: the opening C major prelude taken as a perfectly contained lyrical effusion, as effortless and relaxed as taking a breath.

But so much more was mannered to the point of caricature, hopelessly laboured (the E minor and D flat major), overpedalled to increase the emphasis of the bass (the G sharp minor).

When originally announced the Chopin was to have ended Pogorelich's programme. But in turning the sequence upside down Schumann's Toccata was replaced by Prokofiev's Third Sonata, following on from a Rachmaninov Moment Musical that provided a perfect example of his not seeing the shape of the musical wood for the self-regarding beauty of the individual trees, and three Spanish Dances by Granados which suffocated under the attempt to make them more profound than they really are.

Prokofiev, though, brought the best from Pogorelich. He prefaced the sonata with an arrangement of the Farewell Scene from the Romeo and Juliet ballet, ravishingly played without a trace of affectation, and then unleashed his full armoury on the rebarbative writing of the Third. It's a piece that scarcely pauses for breath; when forced into sharp focus like this, it showed that his playing can still be irresistible.

*This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's Guardian*

Mob attacks cause hostels to close doors to sex offenders ☐ Supervision system now 'in danger'

# Vigilantes 'get upper hand'

**Alan Travis**
**Home Affairs Editor**

THE first signs of the breakdown of the system of supervision of sex offenders emerged yesterday, as ministers admitted the wave of vigilante attacks has forced a growing number of probation hostels to close their doors to paedophiles.

Probation chiefs said at least 10 probation and bail hostels now refuse to accept sex offenders who have been released from prison because they fear attacks from local residents. The problem is believed recently to have got worse since the violent protests surrounding the release of child killers Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke.

The refusal by some hostels to take any sex offenders means others have a high proportion among their residents. But even that is now being put in jeopardy as many more of the 101 probation hostels around the country are now also refusing to take sex offenders from outside their own immediate area.

"They don't want to become dumping grounds for the rest of their region," said Gill Mackenzie, vice-chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation. Ministers fear that it will become "difficult if not impossible to place these people".

Details of more than 40 incidents of "outing" of sex offenders by local newspapers and vigilante protests and attacks have been released by chief probation officers. In one case, police had to evacuate residents and staff from a hostel when it was surrounded by a crowd of 400 people angry about a sex offender, who in fact was not there.

The developments are the first indications of the breakdown of the entire system of supervision of sex offenders which chief probation officers describe as the "the front line of public protection".

Graham Smith, Chief Inspector of Probation, said yesterday that hostel managers were refusing to take sex offenders "not because they can't handle or cope with them, but because of the consequences from the local community doing something very stupid to the hostel and the staff there."

He said that local residents who attacked or picketed probation hostels to protect their children were achieving the opposite, as sex offenders could not be closely monitored if they were living alone outside.

Mr Smith said there were at present 430 sex offenders living in approved probation hostels. They have been convicted of a range of sex crimes, from minor indecency charges to a few predatory paedophiles. In the hostels they were monitored 24 hours a day, with staff watching where they went.

The disclosure of the impact of the vigilante movement coincided with publication of a new study by the Chief Inspector of Probation, which concludes that the probation service's supervision of sex offenders is highly effective.

It found that 93 per cent of sex offenders kept in hostels were not reconvicted — among the highest rate for any group of criminals. The Chief Inspector says in his study, the first in this area for seven years, that the quality of work undertaken by the probation service with sex offenders was testimony to their skills and persistence. The inspectors found a high level of vigilance, and the treatment programmes used were designed to protect the public.

The Home Office Minister, Joyce Quin, said the report showed the probation service was playing a vital role.

"If sex offenders are not able to be accommodated in this way, we are in fact increasing the danger to the public by driving them where they can be supervised, to a life underground where they may pose an even greater threat to children."

## Belgian government survives

**BELGIUM'S coalition government survived a parliamentary censure motion yesterday, following last week's escape from custody of Marc Dutroux, alleged serial child killer and convicted paedophile, but only after ministers had forced the resignation of the country's chief of police.**

**Lieutenant-General Willy Deridder, the head of the state gendarmerie, offered his resignation after meeting senior ministers a few hours before the no-confidence debate. The government survived the opposition motion by 81-64 votes.**

Coalition survives, page 6

Time to throw away the dentist's drill?

In the dentist's chair . . . new vaccine could remove the widespread apprehensiveness which the experience induces PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

'I think it is the beginning of the end of fillings, frankly. But how soon depends on how much money we can get to do what we need to do in the field trials'

**Prof Tom Lehner**

# Vaccine 'could wipe out problem of tooth decay'

**Sarah Boseley**
**Health Correspondent**

A VACCINE to prevent tooth decay, which could make the terrors of the dentist's drill a thing of the past, has been developed by scientists at Guy's Hospital in London after 25 years of research, it was announced yesterday.

The vaccine is not injected but painted on to the teeth. It is colourless, tasteless and holds no dangers because it is made up of antibodies like those naturally occurring in our immune system, say Tom Lehner and Julian Ma, who led the research.

They are excited by their breakthrough, first, because they have developed a vaccine that may be effective for as long as six months at a time, and second, because they have managed to genetically engineer plants to grow antibodies like those secreted by the gut, throat and lungs. Results in the experimental group of 15 volunteers at Guy's hospital dental school have been very promising, but clinical trials are now needed before there are any decisions about the way the vaccine is used.

"I believe for the next few years, it should be applied by dentists," said Professor Lehner. "But after a few years we could start experimenting with self-medication in toothpaste or mouthwash or a tablet that is sucked."

Tooth decay is not the problem it once was, but still affects half of all children by the age of five, and three-quarters of all 17-year-olds.

The antibody in the vaccine works specifically on the protein that attaches the damaging bacteria, streptococcus mutans, to the teeth. Volunteers used a strong antiseptic mouthwash for nine days to rid the mouth of all bacteria, and then were given a course of the vaccine — two coatings a week for three weeks.

At the end of that time, the space that had been colonised by streptococcus mutans on the teeth had been occupied by other, mostly benign, bacteria, and it could not return. The research is published this week in Nature Medicine magazine in New York.

Dr Ma said: "This vaccine is a breakthrough in the prevention of tooth decay. We have found a way of using plants to produce this vaccine safely and in large quantities — it would not be possible otherwise."

A California-based company, Plant Biotechnology, has worked with the Guy's team to modify tobacco plants to grow the antibody. "The cost of the raw material will be negligible," said Dr Ma. "You can grow fields of the stuff."

But so far none of the pharmaceutical companies has offered to finance clinical trials. Professor Lehner said he did not know why a British company had not come forward to develop the idea commercially. "Somehow, we lack the will or entrepreneurial spirit that the Californians have."

Could it mean the end of fillings? "I think it is the beginning of the end, frankly. But how soon depends on how much money we can get to do what we need to do in the field trials."

But the vaccine was not a licence for children to eat sweets and throw away their toothbrushes. Too much sugar would overload the antibody protection, and brushing teeth is in any case vital for preventing gum disease, the scientists pointed out.

Professor Lehner can now see the end to his 25-year quest, started in the pre-fluoride days when caries was a far greater problem than nowadays.

The new vaccine has no side-effects, he said. "We put antibodies in our mouths all the time — when we drink cow's milk, for instance."

There is also excitement over the possibility of using the techniques to grow other antibodies that could be added to bodily secretions. They could be used to prevent infections from sexually transmitted diseases like Candida, chlamydia, or even HIV. "Antibodies used prophylactically in intercourse might prevent the virus getting through," he said.

The British Dental Association said that the vaccine "could be an important advance", but stressed that even if it came into general use, the public should not abandon basic oral hygiene.

## Fat-cat barristers defend high legal aid fees after Lord Chancellor names and shames

continued from page one

time judge, received at least £670,000 in legal aid payments in 1996-97, the biggest legal aid payment that year. Mr Trollope's name was the only one to appear on both lists.

He was paid between £270,000 and £319,000 from the legal aid fund covering civil cases and magistrates court criminal cases in that year. He also received between £400,000 and £450,000 from criminal legal aid. But Mr Trollope said the figures in his case covered three financial years.

He specialises in serious white collar crime, though he has defended in a number of high-profile murder cases, including that of the gay serial killer Colin Ireland.

Both the highest paid criminal QCs — Alun Jones, who received £575,000 and Peter Rook, just under £500,000 — represented Kevin Maxwell and Robert Bunn in the Maxwell fraud trial.

Daniel Brennan QC, who received more than £320,000 for civil work and who specialises in medical negligence, said he had an 82 per cent success rate, which meant that most of his fees were repaid to the legal aid board by the losing party.

In medical negligence cases, this is usually the NHS.

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Selling by numbers

Fanfare of publicity . . . The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates acquiring a useful licence plate to adorn one of its trucks

# Personal plates spell big money

## To the driver they are a matter of vanity, but to the Treasury a source of phone number profits

**Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent**

BUYING a personalised number plate may be the ultimate in personal vanity, a public display of one's wit and wealth. But it has also become a licence to print money for the government, since the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency got the go-ahead to distribute previously unissued personalised plates in 1989.

Since then, the DVLA has raised more than £300 million for Treasury coffers by pandering to people's desire to *make their cars stand out* from their fellows'.

The DVLA reported yesterday that it raised just under £50 million last year from sale of personalised plates. And it is expecting an even bigger bonanza when the "S" prefix is introduced this summer.

"The 'S' prefixed numbers just look right and there are a number of combinations which will be particularly attractive," said Byron Roberts, the DVLA's marketing manager. "S1MON is likely to be very valuable registration when we sell it at auction, while S1NGH is expected to be one of the most valuable we have ever released. There has been terrific demand for that number for years."

Putting a value on a number, however, has been a *headache for the DVLA*. When it put K1NGS up for auction it was expected to fetch about £15,000.

"The sale took place at Christie's in South Kensington," Mr Roberts said. "The bidding started at £10,000 and went to £15,000. By then there were just two very wealthy individuals involved. It was eventually sold for £231,000. Valuing numbers is not a science or an art, it is just guesswork."

About half the 500,000 or more personalised plates sold by the DVLA go to companies or other organisations, to attract attention to their vehicles and act as mobile advertisements for their goods and services. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, for example, was given R1 RPO for a *new truck*.

Individuals buy them for a myriad reasons, including self-aggrandisement, sentiment, fun and folly. Some just take a gamble, buy the plates as an investment, and hope to sell them at a profit later.

A Beatles fan earlier this month bought the R1NGO plate for £5,000, while a Scotsman bought L4URA for £38,000 for his 15-year-old daughter Laura, as yet without car or driving licence.

Among the most famous purchases, albeit from the dealers who account for 55 per cent of the £80 million a year market in personalised plates, were MAG1C by magician Paul Daniels, and COM1C by comedian Jimmy Tarbuck.

Buying personalised numbers can be risky. Sultan Isam Dajani, a young Wiltshire pharmacist, bought a set as a gift for his girlfriend, but got dumped by her before he could give them to her.

However, he does not regret the purchase. He finds it is the P888 HOT plate, rather than the red MGF sports car which carries it, that excites comment.

Not all numbers are available. The DVLA has a pool of selected numbers, using all the previous prefixes except C, D, E, F, and G, which can be bought over the phone, using a credit card. But the more valuable numbers are auctioned.

It does not, however, reissue numbers, partly because the DVLA does not want to disappoint classic car enthusiasts who want the original number plate on restored vehicles.

Classic numbers do not always go on classic or luxurious cars. "One of the first numbers we ever sold was 1A, which went for £200,000," said Mr Roberts. "It was later seen on a long wheelbase, diesel Land-Rover, belching out clouds of blue smoke. The number plate was worth hundreds of times more than the vehicle."

Sultan Isam Dajani with the registration that was to have been a gift for his girlfriend

### Pithy and pricey

*Highest priced number plates sold through the DVLA's Classic Collection auctions:*

1. K1 NGS £231,000
2. 1 A £200,000
3. 1 RR £106,000
4. 1 S £100,000
5. G1 LLY £87,500
6. P1 LOT £82,500
7. 1 DM £75,000
8. 1 J £75,000
9. ELV 1S £75,000
10 N1 GEL £75,000

# Jobs under threat as exports dip

**Charlotte Denny**

THE threat of heavy redundancies was hanging over industry *yesterday as new* evidence showed the strength of sterling has driven exporters' confidence to its lowest level since the recession of *the 1980s*.

The fragile state of the manufacturing sector was confirmed by separate data showing Britain's trading deficit *has ballooned to an eight year* high. The figures showed that the underlying trend was for the trade figures to worsen, according to the Office for National Statistics.

A survey by the Confederation of British Industry published yesterday found manufacturers preparing to cut investment and lay off workers. Almost two thirds of exporters think the outlook will worsen over the next three months, while only 10 per cent are expecting an improvement — the gloomiest assessment of prospects for 18 years.

City analysts said the survey showed the depth of the crisis facing British manufacturing. "Every component of the survey is weaker and many are pointing to recession," said Simon Briscoe of the Japanese bank Nikko Europe.

John O'Sullivan, of *NatWest markets, said it was* a "truly dreadful report, even by the standards of recent gloomy manufacturing surveys ... A shake-out from manufacturing payrolls is imminent."

The CBI last night pleaded with the Bank of England not to make matters worse by increasing interest rates.

While admitting the Government could do little to take the pressure off sterling, the CBI's chief economist, Kate Barker, said Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, "had not properly taken on board" *the problems exporters faced* with the rise in the value of the pound against foreign currencies.

Official figures released *yesterday showed the pound's* strength is sucking in cheap imports and causing exports to slide. The trade deficit increased to £2.2 billion in February, *the highest monthly* figure since March 1990, the dying days of the the last economic boom. Exports were flat, while the value of imports rose by 7.5 per cent.

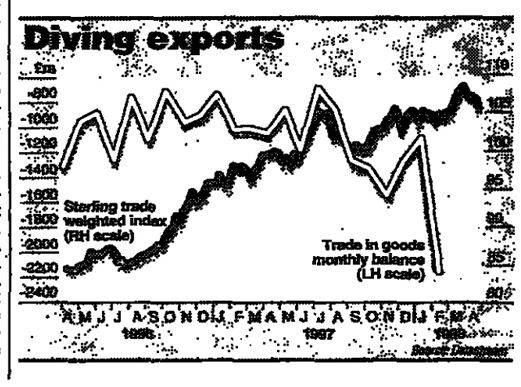
Analysts said the ballooning current account deficit could undermine the Government's economic programme. "A couple more monthly numbers on this scale would really threaten the balance in the economy," Mr Briscoe said.

Despite the gloomy news from the export sector, the CBI's director, Adair Turner, told an audience of York business people last night that industry had as little interest in an undervalued pound as in an overvalued one.

The long term challenge was to improve Britain's productivity against its competitors, which would increase economic growth.

"In the 1980s Britain man*aged to cut the productivity* gap versus our competitors but over the last three years our growth has slowed while that of our competitors has accelerated ... If we copied best practice in manufacturing, our GDP could increase by £60 billion a year," Mr Turner said.

Notebook, page 11




# TV brings no violence to St Helena

**Kamal Ahmed, Media Correspondent**

A REMARKABLE experiment with *children who* had never been exposed to television has shown that its introduction to the tiny community of St Helena has not created a surge in violence.

The study undermines previous research which had *suggested* a link between television violence and anti-social behaviour.

"St Helena has given us a unique opportunity to look at children's behaviour both before as well as after the introduction of television in a real-life setting," said Professor Tony Charlton, who is leading the research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

The researchers, who filmed children at play during school breaks in the South Atlantic *British* colony, found no increase in hitting, punching, pinching or fighting. Television was introduced to the community in 1995.

The findings *back up* research among teenagers on the island.

"Much of the evidence *which suggests* television is a negative influence has come *from artificial laboratory environments*," Prof Charlton said.

"What we are seeing is that violence on television is not a direct cause of violent behaviour in young people. A healthy family, school and community environment are more important influences in shaping behaviour."

In January a Home Office study suggested that there was a link between criminal behaviour and violent videos *for those* who were already in "vulnerable" situations.

In the United States the link between a violent society and television appeared to be strengthened when a study *revealed that the average US* child would see 32,000 murders, 40,000 attempted murders and 250,000 acts of violence on television before the *age of 18*.

In St Helena, although the levels of violence on the cable networks beamed into the island are slightly higher than on television in Britain, and there is no viewing "watershed", Prof Charlton said the strong sense of community affected children's behaviour. Older children operated a "neighbourhood watch" which made it hard for youngsters to misbehave.

**"There is an activism inherent in writing, but then there's the activism inherent in being active literally... activism that feels right to you is probably your activism, and...you should stick with it"**

Alice Walker on politics, race and sexuality

Arts, G2 page 8

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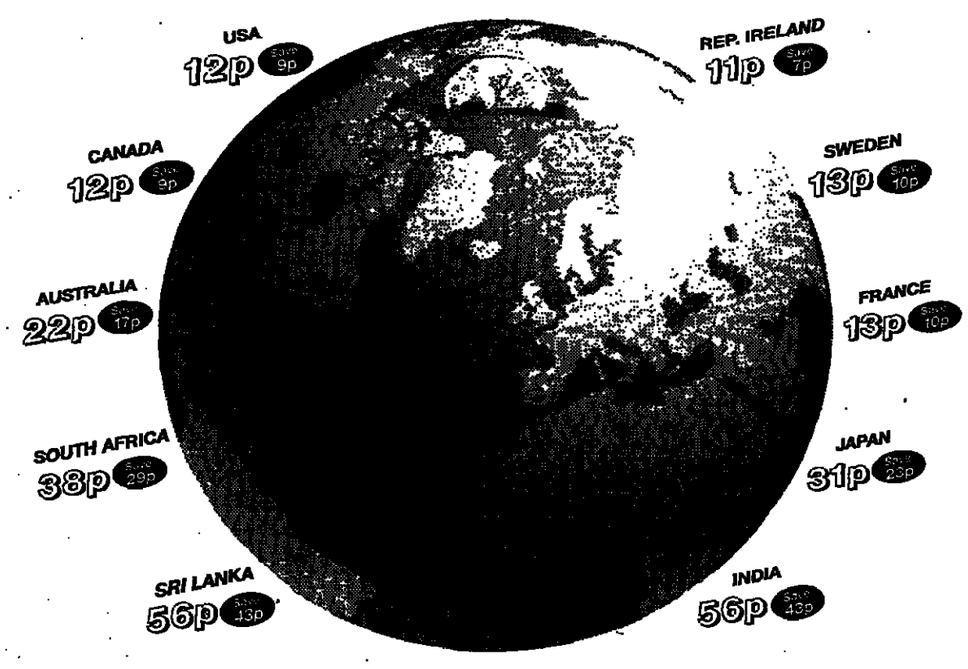


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# A party looking over its shoulder at the SNP

**One year on and the country's first Labour government in nearly 20 years claims to be achieving real success. But has it made any impact on an impoverished town like Airdrie? EWEN MACASKILL investigates**

LABOUR'S FIRST YEAR

Airdrie High Street in Monklands, where voters will want to see change before returning Labour for another term of office

PHOTOGRAPHS: MURDO MacLEOD

HELEN Liddell stepped out of her constituency office in Airdrie, Lanarkshire. Four boys, barely teenagers, shouted: "Yo Helen Liddell. Vote Labour."

The Treasury Minister smiled at this unsolicited confirmation of Labour's strength in her West of Scotland seat, one year into government. Her smile did not last long. One of the youths crossed the road and stopped her. "I'm a junkie," he said, before embarking on a tirade against the police before leaving to see his lawyer.

The Airdrie and Shotts constituency, John Smith's old Monklands seat, is a desperate place, with poverty and unemployment to match the worst estates in Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and London. It is a bleak, post-industrial landscape, dominated by quarries, landfill sites and open-cast mining, topped off with two prisons. Cool Britannia has no resonance here, among the thousands of damp, grey-brown, pebbledash, council-built homes.

As if this community did not have enough problems, it is also riven by sectarianism, the worst outside Northern Ireland. In the byelection that followed Smith's death in 1994 a poster was displayed prominently in one of the former mining villages: "No Pope Here". Scrawled underneath was a telling testimony to the quality of life in Airdrie and Shotts: "Lucky Pope".

This constituency and many like it throughout Britain will be the real test of Tony Blair's government. Eighteen years of Conservative rule, for all its claims of economic success, did nothing for areas like this. One year into the Labour government, nothing has changed. Few would expect otherwise, given the short time scale, but Labour activists will not be as forgiving if there is still no visible improvement after five years.

Labour has much to be smug about as it approaches its anniversary, at least in England, where politics is dormant and the opposition parties nearly invisible. Not so Scotland, where Labour is panicking. The Scottish National Party, well behind Labour last summer, has closed the gap, neck and neck at 40 per cent in a recent opinion poll. Blair, in Edinburgh in September, hailed an overwhelming referendum vote for the restoration of a Scottish parliament. It would, he said, cement the union. The opposite is happening.

Downing Street and the Labour headquarters at Millbank only recently woke up to the extent of restlessness in Scotland, and in the last month money and resources have been pouring north. Labour is embarking on the modernisation of its Scottish party and rethinking its strategy for combating the SNP.

The contrast between the way Labour is seen in Scotland and in England was brought home to a Scottish Labour MP who returned to his constituency at the weekend after campaigning in council elections in England.

"In London it was all positive," he said, but in Scotland, there was "a sense of disenchantment". At a constituency meeting he was struck by the applause for a member of the audience who stood up to express disillusionment.

Although Liddell only just beat the SNP in the byelection, she converted that into a 16,000 majority last year. If the SNP were to sweep Scotland this would be one of the last places to fall. But there is a whisper being heard elsewhere in Scotland, of the danger for Labour.

The late party leader John Smith remembered by a swimming pool in his constituency of Monklands

While expressing general satisfaction with Blair, Labour sympathisers and activists will still throw in a grievance or two. What worries Labour is that there is no single cause of resentment, just an underlying, barely tangible sense of disappointment.

Among issues raised were lone parents, disability benefits, tuition fees, a squeeze in local government spending, and above all the West of Scotland council scandals. There was no thanks for delivering devolution.

John Smith Court, a complex of sheltered homes for the elderly and disabled, is a good example of what Labour is up against. One of the staff, sitting opposite a portrait of the former Labour leader, has voted Labour all her life but waves her hand to suggest she is now swithering. The reason: Robin Cook's affair. "I am moralistic in my own life," she said. And to compound the problem for Labour, added: "I do not support the SNP but I would like to see an independent Scotland."

There are few reminders of Smith in the constituency: just the sheltered homes and a renamed swimming pool. And few people, even party members, mention him. History is being rewritten in London to suggest Smith, a traditionalist, would not have won a substantial majority at the general election, or might not even have won at all. Surprisingly, given the tribalism of Scotland, this is echoed in the constituency, and Blair emerges well by comparison.

One party activist who had worked with Smith did express disappointment that Millbank was not named John Smith House, as had been promised. But the same activist praised Blair for his radical transformation of the party and his appeal beyond Labour's usual constituency: "John would not have won. He was a good, competent politician but he did not have that extra bit of flair."

The byelection that followed his death was one of the nastiest fought in Britain this century, dominated by religion. Airdrie is strongly Protestant, and candidates were spat on and pelted with bottles as the bile rose. It became poisonous when Liddell attended a meeting organised by a Christian movement. Liddell, a Catholic, walked down the aisle to a sullen stamping of feet and growls of "Fenian bastard". A fellow Labour MP quipped afterwards: "If this is the Christians, show me the lions."

The village of Harthill, as proudly Protestant as Belfast's Shankill Road, is represented on North Lanarkshire council by Charlie Cefferty. He felt qualified to act as a neutral observer of Labour and the SNP, being both an Independent and district master of the Orange Order: "The SNP is not as powerful as in the rest of the country, but it would be foolish to suggest it is not making inroads." He believed Scotland was heading towards independence; that the party was building up a momentum.

One of the handful of SNP councillors in the constituency, Graham Russell, represents and lives in the Craigneuk ward, a grim housing scheme built on the outskirts of Airdrie after the second world war. Russell, who runs a chauffeur firm, mainly driving brides around, said: "People waited 18 years for Labour to deliver and nothing has happened. They are Tories by another name. The Labour councillors keep a smiling profile but in private they tell you it is a disaster."

At SNP headquarters the line from the strategists is that people had made a fundamental switch in favour of independence in the 1980s but felt constrained by a need to get the Tories out, and that meant voting Labour. With the Conservatives gone, they felt free to vote for the SNP.

Labour is convinced that independence is not popular, and that in the end what matters to people is jobs, health and education. Labour has to deliver on these, especially jobs, a view shared by the party locally. It will not be easy.

On the stairs outside the benefits office in Airdrie were empty bottles of Buckfast, Irn Bru and Hooch. It had not been a one-off party. On a low roof opposite, a convenient dumping ground, were scattered scores of empties. The Hooch suggested youthful drinkers, not an unreasonable assumption given that young people make up much of the traffic in and out of the office. The constituency has the highest level of youth unemployment in Scotland outside Glasgow and Dundee.

Karen Turnbull, Liddell's agent and a possible candidate for the Scottish parliament, sympathised: "It is not acceptable that young people can go so long without a job. There are 22 and 23-year-olds who have never worked." The Government is making a start, with 277 young people who have been unemployed for six months or more being offered places on the New Deal scheme.

But how successful can such schemes be in the long run in a constituency that can boast only one big private sector employer? The jobs are just not there, and that is before another recession bites, as lots of Labour people assume it will. It will require a huge shift in resources — well beyond the £500 million the Government has so far committed to the New Deal in Scotland — to make a difference.

Keir Hardie, whose family home straddles the constituency border, would have been up for it. The question over the next four to 10 years is whether those who inherited his party, in spite of their reluctance to use the word socialism, are also up for it.

**TOMORROW: Jonathan Freedland examines the performance of Tony Blair, and asks whether a year in power has changed him**

## And how was it for you?

**DOUG McAVOY, general secretary, National Union of Teachers: "Class sizes are down, nursery vouchers and the assisted places scheme have been abolished. There is more respect for teachers and their views. Teachers' concerns about the primary curriculum have been taken seriously.**

**"There are things Labour has done that we are not happy about like naming and shaming schools. They did it once and they haven't done it again. However, it is the first time in 19 years we can say we are impressed overall."**

**MELVYN BRAGG, arts broadcaster: "It has been a remarkable first year. Tony Blair's government has achieved far more than most people thought possible.**

**"They also make it clear that they know there is a long way to go, but they know they are going to get there in the future."**

**J G BALLARD, author: "The government of the country is now a non-stop public relations campaign, the chief client being the English middle classes. But the public seems to like it like that.**

**"Ideology is at an end and advertising slogans have taken its place."**

**SALLY GREENGROSS, director general of Age Concern: "Despite the emphasis on younger people in the slogans of new Britain, the Labour government has taken limited actions to address the needs of older people over the winter.**

**"However, the Government must realise that older people cannot afford to wait for an endless round of reviews. Today's pensioners need to know they can get the support they need when they need it."**

**ECOW ESHUN, editor of Arena: "I think that Tony Blair's government has managed to reinvigorate a sense of nation and potential for Britain, which has been good. But it seems with that there is a national obsession for how that was created — which is spin.**

**"They have been great at imagining and inspiring, which has perhaps outstripped some of the practical things they have been able to do."**

**NORMAN LAMONT, former Tory chancellor: "I think they have done quite good things with the economy; making the Bank of England independent was brilliant and right.**

**"But the rest of it, as they say in Texas, is all hat and no cattle. Any government that spends all that time on public relations is bound to come unstuck."**

## Five triumphs . . .

☐ **Northern Ireland**
With the talks apparently close to collapse Tony Blair dashed to Belfast declaring the "hand of history" was on his shoulder. By the end of the Long Good Friday an agreement had been signed.

☐ **Constitutional reform**
Devolution for Scotland and Wales, the human rights bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, the promise of a freedom of information act, proportional representation for European elections and probably a mayor for London, have been tackled at whirlwind pace.

☐ **Welfare to Work**
Funded using the windfall tax on privatised utilities, the £3.5 billion New Deal was launched with the aim of getting 250,000 of those under 25 off benefit.

☐ **Education spending**
The Government has pumped an extra £2.5 billion into the school system; new measures introduced to raise standards and ensure nursery education for all four-year-olds, plus a maths hour and a reading hour in every primary school, and £1,000 for every school to buy new books.

☐ **Worldwide Blairmania**
"Marvellous, brilliant, astonishing, exceptional, elegant" was how a French minister described Blair's speech to the National Assembly in March. Blair's love-in with Clinton was another success. He visited the Middle East with the badge of peacemaker firmly pinned to his lapel.

## . . . and five setbacks

☐ **Bernie Ecclestone**
Formula 1 was exempted from a tobacco advertising ban after Blair met motor racing chiefs. It later emerged that Mr Ecclestone, head of the sport's governing body, had given £1 million to the party. Blair publicly apologised, and Labour returned the cash.

☐ **Welfare reform**
Proposed Government cuts to single parent benefit split the Cabinet and 47 Labour MPs voted against. After mounting pressure the Government was forced effectively to restore the cuts.

☐ **Brown's biography**
A semi-sanctioned biography about Chancellor Gordon Brown said he still wanted to be prime minister and had not forgiven Blair for denying him the leadership in 1994. Some at No 10 reportedly regarded the Chancellor as "psychologically flawed".

☐ **Irvine's wallpaper**
Lord Chancellor Derry Irvine justified spending £650,000 on the refurbishment of his official House of Lords apartment saying future generations would "be grateful". The refurbishment included wallpaper reproduced from the designs by Augustus Pugin and hung at a cost of £57,000.

☐ **Geoffrey Robinson**
Millionaire Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson put his fortune into a Guernsey-based "blind" trust. Newspaper investigations suggested the Treasury minister still retained some control. He was also accused of tax avoidance as the trust was based offshore.

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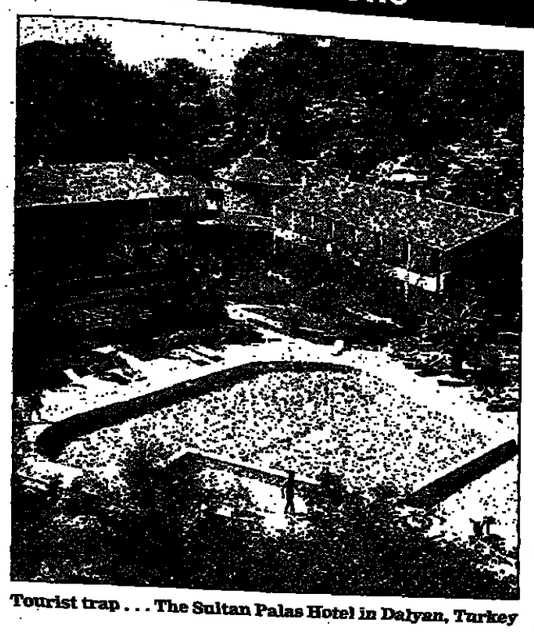
Vacations by nations



Tourist trap . . . The Sultan Palas Hotel in Dalyan, Turkey

British holidaymakers enjoying a toga party, which the Germans disdained until provided with clean sheets. Overall, hotel staff rated the Japanese most fun

**Kamal Ahmed** on a TV series exposing how the Japanese, Germans, Americans and Brits really behave on their holidays

# Holiday stereotypes fall into sun trap

GERMANS have towels to defend their sun-loungers, Americans are loud, the Japanese are reserved and the British drunk — such are the stereotypes of different nation's holidaymakers.

But all that is about to be torn asunder by a documentary series which used hidden cameras to show the best and worst sides of national characteristics.

The Channel 4 programme, for which holidaymakers were not told they were being filmed, will reveal that of the above list only the British act to type — drinking into the small hours night after night.

The programme makers invited groups of tourists from those four countries to the Sultan Palas Hotel in Dalyan, Turkey, and secretly filmed them in set-up situations.

The Germans were the only group to send back a bottle of wine laced with vinegar, the British stole the beer but did not mind the queue-jumpers, and the Japanese were so shocked when a planted actor began showering in the nude that they turned their backs on him and demanded he put on a towel.

The most upsetting thing for the Americans was finding someone had burned their flag above the bar. One holidaymaker said she wanted to take the remains home and "dispose of them properly".

There were also surprising reactions to a "drunk" coach driver, who was meant to take the tourists on a trip.

The British refused to get on the bus, the Japanese seemed unconcerned until the group leader noticed that the driver had a bottle of spirits at his feet, and the Germans were more concerned that he would be sacked if they made too much fuss.

"I don't want to blame him," one German said to hotel staff. "Maybe he loses his job, maybe he has children."

When the tourists were given an afternoon off the British went and played football in the pouring rain, the Germans went walking, the Japanese hired a tour coach so as not to waste a moment's potential sightseeing, and the Americans played pool in the bar.

"We found that some of the stereotypes are based on a grain of truth, whereas others are unfounded," said David Glover, producer of the programme called Tourist Trap, which starts next week.

He said the Japanese group had been judged by the hotel staff as the most fun, undermining the usual judgment that the country is withdrawn.

The programme will reignite the debate on fly-on-the-wall documentaries which have been criticised for engineering situations to make them look more controversial.

The director of the programme, David Dugan, admitted that it had raised a series of ethical dilemmas, but said all the people involved had been told at the end that they had been duped and had agreed that the series should go ahead.

"We didn't want to show people slagging off their boss or flirting with the bar staff," Mr Dugan said.

The programme-makers asked psychologists to put together a series of experiments to test national characteristics.

In one situation an actor started smoking on a no-smoking bus. The British were polite and asked him to take the cigarette outside, the Japanese were more concerned with maintaining harmony and said nothing, the Germans had a vote and asked him to put it out — while the Americans ignored him and started smoking themselves.

None of the nationalities complained openly when they were served deliberately poor food. In another set-up the bar was left unattended and an actor started pretending to steal beer.

The British, chosen after adverts were placed in local papers in the Midlands, joined in with gusto, as did the Americans. The Japanese were horrified and told the bar staff later, and the Germans also refused to take part.

But the programme makers agreed that the Germans were the most sombre group. During a toga evening when the guests were asked to bring the sheets from their beds, the Germans were reluctant to take part, only agreeing when the hotel staff produced clean sheets so they would not have to strip their beds.

## Myth and reality

**THE JAPANESE**
**Myth: They are cold, uncommunicative and walk around in Indian file photographing anything that moves.**
**Reality: The party liked nothing better than a good knees-up, with plenty of drink and were the keenest participants in the toga party.**
**Do say: Where's the party?**
**Don't say: Kodak.**

**THE GERMANS**
**Myth: Austere with no sense of humour. They carry towels around to claim sun-loungers first.**
**Reality: Least fun-loving group (they had to be given clean sheets before they would take part in the toga party), although they showed a caring streak dealing with the "drunk" coach driver. Only group to send back wine laced with vinegar.**
**Do say: I'll put a spot of bleach on that**
**Don't say: Who's for charades?**

**THE AMERICANS**
**Myth: Outgoing, fun-loving cheerleaders who have only come across Turkey on Thanksgiving and like everybody as long as they don't smoke.**
**Reality: Reserved group, baffled by Turkish baths. Didn't like someone burning their flag but allowed a smoker on non-smoking bus — then lit up as well.**
**Do say: Got a light?**
**Don't say: No worry, it's only a flag.**

**THE BRITISH**
**Myth: Hard drinking, partying, sunburnt holidaymakers who would rather play football in the rain than see the sights.**
**Reality: Hard drinking, partying, sunburnt holidaymakers who would rather play football in the rain than see the sights.**
**Do say: Where's the bar?**
**Don't say: I hear the museum is very good.**

# Police free boy torture victim

Geoffrey Gibbs

A 12-YEAR-OLD torture victim was receiving hospital treatment for hundreds of injuries last night after being found tied to banisters during a police raid on a house in Dorset.

Police officers and ambulance paramedics who went to the property in Poole were horrified at the extent of the violence inflicted on the boy. None had ever seen such a serious case of child abuse.

It is thought that he may have been tortured and starved for three weeks, during which he was forced to stand on drawing pins and was beaten with a variety of weapons.

Dorset police yesterday refused to comment on the case but said they were questioning a man and woman. The two, both in their 30s and from the Creekmoor area of Poole, were in custody "following allegations of serious assault in respect of a 12-year-old male".

Medical staff at Poole hospital refused to comment on the nature of the injuries, which reportedly reduced one nurse to tears.

It is understood that the beatings left the boy with a fractured skull and jaw, and damage to his wrists and ankles.

A hospital spokeswoman said: "We can confirm that the child is a patient in the children's unit. He is making a reasonable recovery. No surgery is planned at present."

It is believed that the boy's ordeal, which included starvation, may have lasted for three weeks.

He was tied so tightly that the circulation to his wrists had been cut off.

Police raided the address late on Sunday following a tip from a member of the public, and immediately called paramedics to the scene.

Two other children at the address have been taken to a place of safety by social workers and placed in care.

Police and social services are carrying out a joint investigation.

# School wins chance to stress ethos of Islam

Vivek Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

A PRIMARY school in Liverpool is to become the first local authority administered school to have a strong Islamic ethos, following a deal between the city council and Muslim organisations.

The school is due to open in September next year to cater for up to 420 pupils aged between five and 11 in the inner city Granby area, where most of the city's Muslim community lives. It will be open to all faiths, but its timetable will include Islamic assemblies, the teaching of Islamic history, and religious education with an emphasis on Islam.

It will offer food suitable for Muslim pupils, and give holidays for Muslim festivals. An attempt will be made to have a significant number of Muslim school governors.

The ground-breaking venture follows a decision to close Granby junior school and Tiber county primary school, both of which suffered from falling rolls, and amalgamate them into one school with an Islamic ethos, on a site that has yet to be decided.

Local non-Muslim parents claim that the plan for the school was imposed by the city council, and that the number of Muslim pupils in the two schools does not justify the decision — 50 per cent of pupils at Granby are Muslim, and 30 per cent at Tiber.

There are 61 independent Muslim schools in the country, and two more were awarded state funding in January, but none is directly run by a local education authority.

Ann Melville of the Liverpool authority said: "This will not be a grant maintained school or a Muslim school. It will be a regular, local authority administered school with an Islamic ethos. We will have the same admission policy as we have for our other schools.

"There is a significant Muslim population in the Granby and Toxteth area of Liverpool and we wanted to have a school that reflected the make-up of the area where full recognition is given to the Islamic faith."

The school, which has not been named, is supported by Labour and Liberal Democrat Liverpool city councillors, and the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, has been asked for his approval.

The authority says that pupils who do not wish to take part in Islamic assemblies or other activities will not be compelled to do so and that all others faiths will be recognised.

Paul Clein, a councillor and Liberal Democrat spokesman on education, said: "We want Islam to be treated on an equal basis with other religions, and that's why this school is being formed.

"The Muslim community does not want an exclusively Muslim school but wants a school that reflects the cultural diversity of the city. There has been some disquiet but, if the Muslim community wants a school in which it can feel comfortable, then, as a matter of equal opportunity, it's only fair that it should have one."

Councillors have set up a working group to establish how a school with an Islamic ethos would operate. They are also considering plans to apply for foundation status, which will replace grant maintained status under government proposals, and would give them the right to set aside a majority of places on the school board for Muslim governors.

Akram Khan-Cheema, an education consultant who has been involved in setting up the school, said: "It's a very exciting and imaginative proposal.

"The school will not be just for Muslims and will offer something to the whole community, regardless of their religion. It will give others a chance to see what an Islamic ethos is all about."

Aisha Hussein and her six children, who all attend Tiber county primary school in Toxteth PHOTOGRAPH: HOWARD BARLOW

## 'Lack of consultation' angers parents

STORM clouds gathered over Tiber county primary school yesterday as pupils emerged to meet their parents at the end of the school day, writes David Ward.

It could have been an omen: Divine rage at or divine support for a plan to create a school with a Muslim ethos in Toxteth, Liverpool's racial melting pot.

Tiber is three years away from the century it will never see if, as planned, the demolition squad moves in in the summer of 1999.

"If this school goes, the heart will be taken out of the community," said Linda Harwood as she collected her two sons. "We have been told that the new school will be multi-faith with a Muslim ethos and would welcome people of all faiths and none."

That, she suggested, implied a contradiction which no one had yet explained.

About 30 per cent of Tiber's 160 pupils are Muslim, but non-Muslims are not so much worried about religion as angry at the council for lack of consultation. The plan is that a new school with a Muslim ethos open nearby, possibly on the site of the former St Bernard's Roman Catholic school.

This suits Aisha Hussein who has six children at Tiber. "I do not ask for my children to be taken out of Christian prayers," she said. "But it would be nice to have a Muslim school."

"This is nothing to do with the opening of a new Muslim school," Ms Harwood said. "We are angry because we only found out it was going ahead from the press.

"The kids are quite happy here and we have a very good parent-teacher relationship."

She said a consultation meeting in June last year had been attended by only nine parents because it was said the school was not part of the reorganisation plan. "Then I picked up the [Liverpool] Echo on February 3 and saw we were part of it.

"Our fight is for the new school to be in the Tiber building. I'll send my kids here but I won't send them to a site near Granby Street, where the drug dealers are."

# EU health curbs lifted by court

Stephen Bates in Brussels

A RULING by the European Court could open the way to thousands of patients from Britain and continental countries being able to shop around for medical treatment across the European Union.

The Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice yesterday ruled that regulations by medical insurance or state health services trying to deter patients from visiting other countries for treatment or medical supplies are a barrier to free trade.

"It means there is nothing in future to stop a woman living in Dover seeking medical treatment in Calais or Ostend," a court spokesman said.

The ruling appears to clear the way for patients to claim at least out-patient treatment at hospitals in other EU member states and to purchase equipment abroad such as spectacles for which they can later claim reimbursement.

It is less clear whether patients would be eligible to have long-stay treatment or operations reimbursed, or whether the actual cost would be met rather than the cost of treatment in the patient's home state.

Yesterday's court decision arose from two cases brought by Luxembourg residents, who both sought repayments after seeking treatment just over the border of the tiny duchy, in Germany and Belgium.

One, Nicolas Decker, had been denied repayment for a pair of spectacles, purchased in the nearest town in Belgium, less than 20 miles away from his home in Luxembourg.

The other, Raymond Kohll, had wanted his daughter's dental treatment to be carried out in Trier, just over the border in Germany, but his application to the Luxembourg social insurance department was refused on the grounds that the treatment was not urgent and could have waited to be carried out in his own country.

Both were claiming under Luxembourg's social security system in which claimants pay for treatment and apply for reimbursement from the state.

The court ruled the refusals amounted to an unjustified barrier to the EU's free movement of goods and services.

In its judgement the court stated: "Such rules constitute a barrier to free movement as they encourage insured persons to purchase medical products of Luxembourg rather than in other member states."

A Department of Health spokesman in London said: "We are still studying the implications of the judgment. It certainly seems as if it allows treatment abroad but it may be hospital treatment is excluded."

## Fergie flaunts family affairs as post-divorce 'role model'

THE Duchess of York heaped fresh embarrassment on the royal family yesterday by revealing that she and her former husband do not bring lovers back to their shared Berkshire home, writes Luke Harding.

In a cringe-making adaptation of sporting phraseology, she confessed that she and the Duke of York carry on their affairs "away from home". "We play away games," she said.

Her disclosure was made to the American chat show host Jay Leno — and to several million US viewers.

Sarah revealed that she and the duke had agreed a no-sex pact at their Sunninghill home — where she occupies the bottom floor, and he the top — for the sake of their daughters Beatrice and Eugenie. But she insisted that her living arrangements are a good role model for other divorced couples.

"Andrew and I believe in co-parenting. That is what it is called," she said.

## World news in brief

### Netanyahu rejects US terms for peace

THE Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, said yesterday he would face world condemnation rather than accept Washington's terms for reviving the Middle East peace process.

The US plan requires Israel to withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank in return for a Palestinian crackdown on Islamic militants. Mr Netanyahu has offered 9 per cent.

"They'll all point fingers at me. So what? I will do what I think is important to achieve a secure peace, a real peace, a defensible peace for Israel," he said yesterday.

The cancellation of meetings scheduled for Monday between the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, and Mr Netanyahu and — separately — Yasser Arafat in London remains a possibility. — *David Sharrock, Jerusalem.*

### Hurt mayor condemns Croats

*A BOSNIAN* Serb mayor, who was badly beaten by Croats during a riot, yesterday condemned Croatian and international officials for allowing the attack to happen.

Milan Marceta made an emotional speech from a wheelchair at a one-day conference to accelerate the return of 1.8 million displaced people and refugees to their pre-war homes in Bosnia.

He was hurt last week when Croats attacked United Nations buildings and stoned Serb refugees trying to return to the west Bosnian town of Drvar. — *Reuters, Banja Luka.*

### Girls die in sweltering car

TWO men have been charged with first-degree murder in Arkansas after leaving two young girls strapped in car seats in a black car which "heated up like an oven".

The girls, aged four and 16 months, died of heat exhaustion and dehydration, the authorities said.

The father of one of the girls and another man left the youngsters in the car for eight hours while they went looking for mushrooms. When they found the girls in the car, the men drove to hospital praying and screaming, the police report said. — *AP, Little Rock.*

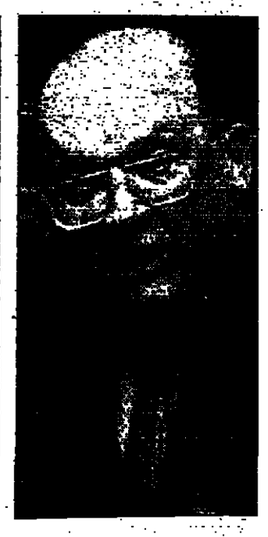
### Serbs 'swoop on Kosovans'

AN ATTACK on a command centre of the Kosovo Liberation Army left eight people dead, a Serbian police source reported yesterday. The village of Glodjane, about 60 miles south-west of Pristina, was attacked on Monday, he said.

But the report was denied by the Serb Media Centre, which is close to the government. Details are sketchy because the area around the Albanian-Kosovo border has been sealed off by the security forces.

Independent news organisations in Belgrade reported earlier that suspected Albanian militants had kidnapped eight Serbs in the Glodjane area. — *AP, Pristina*

## Crisis at the heart of the union



Belgian protesters (left), incensed by the escape last week of paedophile Marc Dutroux, march in Brussels yesterday. They demanded the resignation of the government of prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene (above), who told MPs that police reform was his absolute priority PHOTOGRAPHS: YVES LOGGHE

# Coalition survives censure

**Stephen Bates in Brussels**

THE Belgian coalition government of Jean-Luc Dehaene survived a censure motion in the parliament in Brussels yesterday sparked by last week's escape from custody of the country's most notorious criminal, Marc Dutroux.

But the vote came only after ministers had forced the resignation of the chief of police. Lieutenant-General Willy Deridder offered his resignation after meeting senior ministers a few hours before the no-confidence debate.

Announcing the resignation, Mr Dehaene appealed for the reform of Belgium's antiquated and inefficient police and magistrates' investigation system to be speeded up.

He also called for support for his government before this week's European Union summit at which Belgium is expected to gain entry to the single currency.

Mr Dehaene told the parliament that reforms were the government's absolute priority and that prisoners would no longer be allowed to go to court to read papers about their cases. It was on such a visit that Dutroux escaped. "The unimaginable happened," he admitted.

His government survived the no-confidence motion by 81 votes to 64 after a four-hour debate.

Mr Dehaene's survival was not in doubt, since his government has a majority of 14 over opposition parties and has more than a year of its term to run. This meant that only about 200 demonstrators protested outside the Brussels palace of justice, far short of the 300,000 Belgians who took to the streets in October 1996 to protest at the government's handling of the case. Yesterday the demonstrators were outnumbered by police.

The new interior minister, Louis Tobback, called for senior police and judicial figures "to take the honour of resigning" upon themselves. It transpired yesterday that the government did not feel able to sack them for fear of being challenged in the courts.

The police chief's resignation is the third arising from Dutroux's three-hour escape from police custody last Thursday. The justice and interior ministers quit within minutes of the recapture.

The ease with which Dutroux, supposedly the most tightly guarded prisoner in Belgium's history, was able to escape his guards while on a visit to a country courthouse to examine pre-trial papers has shocked Belgians, even though they are accustomed to accounts of police incompetence in their handling of the case.

Dutroux, aged 41, a former electrician and convicted sex offender, is awaiting trial on charges of abducting and murdering four young girls, abducting and assaulting two others and murdering an associate in what is thought to have been a paedophile ring operating in the southern city of Charleroi.

Two parliamentary inquiries in the past year have blamed police and judicial incompetence for delaying arrests and allowing the deaths of several victims.

# De Klerk's wife fights the siren

**David Beresford in Johannesburg**

THE fighting qualities of the South African *Voortrekker* — Afrikaner pioneer — woman is celebrated. But rarely has Afrikanerdom seen a battle so determined as that being fought by the former first lady Marike de Klerk to save her husband from a Greek "siren".

The long-running marital battle of the De Klerk family, which some commentators believe may have helped shape the course of South African history, seems to be approaching a painful conclusion.

"I'm hoping God will give us a miracle," Mrs De Klerk said at the weekend of her attempts to win her husband from the clutches of Elita Georgiadis, the wife of a Greek oil tycoon.

"I have already instructed my attorney to proceed with a divorce action," Mr F. W. De Klerk countered adamantly. "Mrs Georgiadis is likewise busy with a divorce action, and we plan to marry each other when that has been finalised."

*South African Calvinists* tend to suffer in silence, but Mrs De Klerk has chosen to put her heartbreak firmly in the public domain. She is sharing the agony of her lost love in a book, extracts from which were published in South African newspapers yesterday.

The book will offer some encouragement to analysts who believe that Mr De Klerk's preoccupation with his love affair may have distracted him at important moments in South Africa's constitutional negotiations.

"Men prefer romance to fame or fortune," Marike De Klerk says of the man credited with one of history's most striking exercises in *realpolitik*: abandoning power to South Africa's black majority. "They want to be hugged and cuddled."

Besides putting many a feminist's teeth on edge, her disclosures must have prompted many a tear in Afrikaner households yesterday. But she will not have the sympathy of all Afrikaners.

In the 1980s Mrs De Klerk managed to alienate the so-called "brown Afrikaners" — the coloured, or mixed-race, population — by offering some political insights to a meeting in a geriatric home.

Marike De Klerk, pictured left with her husband, F. W., in happier times

Her address, which she did not realise was being tape-recorded, included such observations as: "The definition of a coloured person in the population register is someone who is not black and is not white and is also not an Indian — in other words a non-person. They are the left-overs. They are the people that were left after the nations were sorted out."

More recently she confirmed her prejudices by intervening to block her son's marriage to one such "left-over", a young coloured woman.

"Are we really divorcing?" Mrs De Klerk demands of herself, incredulously, in her memoirs. It might have been fated: the cry from the heart of a "left-over".

# Rumblings herald the new thrust of politics

**Martin Walker in Brussels**

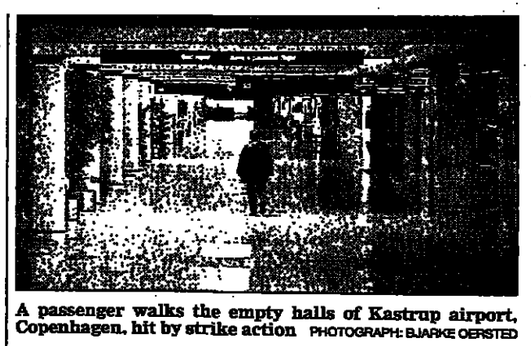
THE Danish government refused to intervene yesterday to stop a general strike which has paralysed public transport, factories and building work, and emptied supermarket shelves and petrol stations as Danes stock up for a long dispute.

The newly re-elected prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, is afraid that government intervention could prompt the trade unions to call for a No vote in the national referendum on the Amsterdam treaty on May 28. A close vote is expected.

Almost one in 10 of Denmark's 5 million people are on strike for a sixth week of paid holiday. The unions have rejected a national pay rise of 8.5 per cent over two years.

The strike, the simultaneous Belgian government crisis and a tense Dutch election campaign represent more than just a collective rumbling. They point to the new politics of Europe, in which jobs or incomes are no longer the pivotal issues.

The three countries, where prosperity is high and unemployment is low or falling, score high on the Euro-Barometer poll of citizens "very or fairly" contented with life.



A passenger walks the empty halls of Kastrup airport, Copenhagen, hit by strike action PHOTOGRAPH: BJARKE OERSTED

In the Netherlands and Denmark the underlying issues are the European Union, the single currency and the growing sway of EU treaties reducing the role of national governments. In Belgium, where the government defeated a no-confidence vote yesterday, the issue is government weakness and failure to reform the flawed judicial system.

Each country is run by a centre-left coalition and can claim to pursue its own version of Tony Blair's vaunted "third way". But the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, may be defeated in next week's election by the collapse in support for the most Blairite of his coalition partners, D-66.

In Denmark, the strike is about social fairness. But lurking behind it is next month's referendum on the Amsterdam treaty. A repeat of Denmark's No vote on the Maastricht treaty in 1993 could imperil its future in the Union.

Even in the pro-EU Netherlands, politics are couched in terms that make a committed European wince. Asked how his country would react to a French veto of their candidate for the EU's new central bank, the Dutch finance minister, Gerrit Zalm, said: "It would be even worse than losing to Germany in the World Cup."

# Bishop's murder horrifies Pope

**Phil Gunson Latin America Correspondent**

THE POPE and the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, have joined the international condemnation of the murder of a Guatemalan bishop and human rights advocate, Juan Gerardi.

The killing of Gerardi, who was beaten with a block of concrete at his home in Guatemala City, was "an abominable crime which has taken the life of a true servant of peace", the Pope said.

Mr Annan condemned the Sunday night killing "in the strongest terms". The UN Human Rights Commissioner, Mary Robinson, called on the Guatemalan government to "make all efforts to bring to justice those responsible for this heinous crime".

President Alvaro Arzú's government has declared six days of national mourning and set up a cabinet-level commission to investigate, but has rejected the Church's demand that the situation must be clarified within 72 hours.

"In this matter there can be no deadlines," the president said.

Guatemalan Church and human rights groups have linked the murder to Gerardi's presentation last Friday of the first full-length report on the atrocities committed during the 36-year civil war which ended in December 1996.

The report blames the army for 80 per cent of the human rights violations, which it says left 150,000 dead and 50,000 missing.

A military spokeswoman, Edith Vargas, denied that the army was involved in the bishop's killing and promised full co-operation with the investigation.

Gerardi, who was 75, headed the human rights office of the Guatemala City archdiocese and was the ecclesiastical co-ordinator for the Historical Memory Recovery project, an attempt to establish the truth about wartime atrocities.

In the 1970s he was bishop of the northern diocese of Quiché, among the areas hardest hit by military violence. In June 1980 he chose to close down the diocese after several priests were murdered. Death threats and an assassination attempt forced him into exile in 1982-84.

Ironically, the report he presented on Friday was titled Never Again.

His death is seen in Guatemala as a profound setback to the peace process begun by the 1996 accords between the Arzú government and guerrillas of the Guatemalan Revolutionary National Unity Movement (URNG).

Bishop Juan Gerardi: bludgeoned to death

The UN Human Rights Commission recently voted to end its special scrutiny of the country after 19 years. But the Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú — an indigenous Guatemalan — said the Gerardi killing "reveals that the situation has not changed and that impunity continues".

Ms Menchú, several of whose closest relatives were victims of atrocities, added that the murder was "a very clear message".

Early indications suggest that as many as four men may have been involved in the murder. A homeless youth who slept in the cathedral doorway has given the police a description of a man in his mid-20s who emerged from the bishop's residence at around the time Gerardi died.

The commission of inquiry includes the interior minister, Rodolfo Mendoza, the foreign minister, Eduardo Stein, and Church representatives.

# Law suit exposes US Nethead's naked ambition

**Christopher Reed in Los Angeles**

HOLLYWOOD stars are launching an attack on Internet sites that make money by showing fake or stolen nude pictures of celebrities.

Alyssa Milano, aged 25, an actress from the long-running soap Melrose Place, filed two lawsuits in Los Angeles yesterday against several sites she says show pictures of her naked.

The action is the first of its kind and is regarded as a test case against a growing industry exploiting digitalised nude images that are often flagrant violations of copyright — or outright fraud.

Milano's Beverly Hills lawyer, Michell Kamark, said: "Celebrities are realising for the first time that the Net is a dangerous force if it's not corralled. We hope that this suit starts a broader attack by Hollywood against such sex sites."

One of the defendants named by the actress is John Lindgren, aged 21, who claims to make around $10,000 (£6,000) a month from his Website, nudecelebrity.com, run from Minnesota.

Rather than going to the expense of defending himself he said he would remove the Milano pictures but would continue the business using other stars' pictures.

Many of the pictures are made by grafting the head of a star on to a nude photo of someone else. A home-made gallery of nude images can be created using relatively simple desk-top publishing equipment.

Taking pictures from a film is trickier and a direct infringement of copyright. Some pictures are copies of paparazzi shots.

The sites make money by charging access fees, selling the pictures on-line for about $100, or making more elaborate and expensive CD-Roms with hundreds of pictures. Customers give a credit card number and another company which checks their veracity will also verify that the buyer is not a minor, one of the few legal requirements in the burgeoning Internet porn business.

Although the law is mainly in Hollywood's favour, closing down the electronic peepshows is probably impossible. The Internet is almost completely unregulated and the astonishing proliferation of pornography in cyberspace is testament to the genre's popularity.

But the stars are outraged and their resources are immense.

Milano's mother, Lin Milano, started a company to identify and pursue cyberporn pirates after her 12-year-old son accidentally found pictures of his famous sister in the buff on the Internet.

# For bank, read football

**Analysis**

**Martin Walker**

TONY Blair flies to the Netherlands on Friday in the hope of resolving the Franco-Dutch row over the first head of the new European central bank, which threatens to overshadow this weekend's formal launch of new single currency.

One big question is how hard Mr Blair will try as holder of the EU presidency to settle a dispute over a new institution and currency in which Britain takes no part.

Another is whether — as Germany is demanding — the issue really has to be settled on Saturday, when European Union leaders meet in Brussels.

The candidate favoured by most countries, including Germany, is Wim Duisenberg, the Dutchman who heads the bank's forerunner, the European Monetary Institute. France's candidate is Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France. London is far cooler than Bonn about the urgency of the matter.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, stressed last week that legally the choice of a head for the ECB board need not be until July.

Two main theories are being put forward to explain this fracas.

The first is that the French are holding out until the last minute, and then will settle for another plum post.

The second theory is that the French just want to stop Mr Duisenberg, preferring a more emollient figure who understands that France's high unemployment requires a certain generosity with the money supply.

The Germans, about to face an electorate fearful for the fate of its cherished mark, believe that sound money comes first.

Mr Blair has three main options. He can insist on the matter being deferred to the EU Cardiff summit in June, so that this weekend's big launch of the euro goes as smoothly as an Oscar ceremony.

He can try to find a compromise candidate, such as Luxemburg's prime minister, Jean-Claude Juncker. Or he can try the King Solomon compromise, splitting the job in half, with four years for the Dutchman followed by four years for the Frenchman.

The Dutch central bank president, Nout Wellink, argued yesterday that dividing the term would be "an extraordinary threat" to ECB continuity, and would leave every post open to negotiation. Such a compromise would also be illegal under the Maastricht treaty.

There could be a gentleman's agreement under which Mr Duisenberg discreetly promises to step down in 2002, though this would simply defer the markets' fever about replacements and policy changes and political influence.

The current betting is evenly split between a compromise candidate being picked at the Cardiff summit, and Mr Duisenberg being named this weekend with a fat French payoff elsewhere.

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# Countdown to confrontation begins as UN enrages Iraq

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

IRAQIS celebrated Saddam Hussein's birthday yesterday as the countdown began to the next crisis over the sanctions which the United Nations insists must remain in force until all his banned weapons are scrapped.

From Baghdad to Basra the country's official media showered praise on the president on his 61st birthday. And there was angry condemnation of the UN's decision to keep sanctions in place after defiant warnings from Iraq and mounting international demands for some relief.

Security Council members, reviewing the sanctions for the first time in nearly a year, decided early yesterday, after hearing a report from the UN's chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, that there would be no change.

Mr Butler is head of the UN Special Commission, Unscom, which has to certify that Iraq has dismantled all banned weapons before the sanctions, imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, can be lifted.

The United States and Britain acknowledged — to stave off a resolution backed by Russia, France and China — that progress had been made in dismantling nuclear weapons, though all agree there is work to be done on chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Butler revealed yesterday that in recent weeks UN inspectors had found artillery shells filled with mustard gas.

But it is becoming increasingly clear that to keep sanctions intact Washington and London will be forced to use their veto, which would be a severe blow to the international unity they are finding hard to maintain.

Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, who made an unprecedented appeal to the council on Monday, yesterday blamed the decision on the "lies and allegations" of Unscom inspectors, "supported by only two members . . . namely the United States of America and the United Kingdom".

With Baghdad hotly insisting it has destroyed its banned weapons, the UN decision opens up the prospect of new confrontations on inspection.

Twice in the past six months the US and Britain have been poised to launch air strikes against Iraq because of Baghdad's refusal to allow free access to sensitive sites.

Both are now braced for the collapse of February's 11th-hour deal between President Saddam and the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan.

UN inspectors visited eight presidential sites after the agreement but found no weapons.

Mr Annan has said the agreement provides for repeated checks of those sites by inspectors accompanied by diplomats. But Mr Sahhaf insisted that access was not open ended.

Even hawks acknowledge that the sanctions are doing more harm to ordinary people than to the regime.

Last week Britain convened a conference to find ways of relieving the suffering of Iraqis while keeping the measures in place. But hopes of winning wide international support were dashed when Kuwait was the only Arab invitee to attend. Russia did not send a representative.

Arab concern at the humanitarian situation will be high on the agenda of talks in London today between Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, representing the European Union, and the foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council.

Iraqi soldiers celebrate Saddam Hussein's 61st birthday yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: AWAD AWAD

# Fraud inquiry puts France on brink of constitution crisis

Paul Webster in Paris

ROLAND DUMAS, chairman of France's constitutional council, may be arrested today when two examining magistrates and a public prosecutor visit his country home near Bordeaux to question him about a long-running financial arms-sales scandal.

The judicial moves to link Mr Dumas, aged 75, with an international fraud will cause a constitutional crisis. The nine-member constitutional council which Mr Dumas heads rules on disputes about legislation. President Jacques Chirac, a Gaullist, is impatient to replace the Socialist former foreign minister with a rightwing nominee, to gain some advantage in the "cohabitation" struggle with the Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin.

Mr Dumas, chosen by his closest political friend, the late President François Mitterrand, has twice declined to answer summonses for questioning, saying he needed to rest after an operation.

Dumas: to face questioning about arms-sales scandal

The decision to interrogate him at home and threaten him with custody reflects the exasperation of the judicial team, determined to throw light on backhanders paid during the sale of six frigates to Taiwan when Mr Dumas was foreign minister.

The case has its ridiculous side: Mr Dumas is to be asked mainly about two pairs of Italian made-to-measure shoes which cost more than £2,500.

The examining magistrates, Eva Joly and Laurence Vichnievsky, will ask Mr Dumas if there is a link between £2.5 million deposited in his account and a policy change at the foreign ministry, which at first opposed the frigate sale to avoid offending China. They want to know whether commissions approved by the presidential entourage were paid to middlemen or illegally siphoned into other private accounts.

Yesterday the judges' office confirmed that if Mr Dumas' answers were unsatisfactory a judicial interrogation process preliminary to prosecution would begin.

The procedure allows the prosecutor, Jean-Pierre Dintilhac, to issue a custody order or approve a form of house arrest while Mr Dumas is questioned.

Even if Mr Dumas were bailed he would be under pressure to resign, since the inquiry is holding up constitutional council decisions on disputed legislation. The government and rightwing opposition have both forced other ministers and officials to resign during fraud inquiries.

# Arms treat for old Yeltsin ally

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

PRESIDENT Yeltsin brought his disgraced former defence minister Pavel Grachev back into the Kremlin fold yesterday, appointing him chief military adviser to Russia's main arms exporter, Rosvooruzheniye.

The move confirms that Mr Yeltsin wants proven allies controlling potential sources of campaign funds before the next presidential election in 2000. It may also signal Russia's determination to sell weapons to countries considered "pariah states" by Washington.

During the day, several senior figures were also nominated by the new prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, to join his government.

No first deputy prime ministers were named, but Boris Nemtsov, who previously held this post, was named a deputy prime minister, as was Viktor Khristenko, a former deputy finance minister.

The finance minister, Mikhail Zadornov, kept his job, as did the foreign, interior and defence ministers.

Though not in the cabinet, Mr Grachev — who conspicuously acquired a fortune while defence minister between 1992 and 1996 and earned the nickname "Pasha Mercedes" — will be formally and legally in charge of selling weapons this time round, and the state hopes to share the profits.

"Pavel Grachev has wonderful relations with defence ministers in many countries," said Rosvooruzhenye's director, Yevgeny Ananyev. "His ample experience will undoubtedly have a positive effect" on company operations.

Mr Grachev's appointment dampens speculation that he is to be charged by the government prosecution service in connection with the 1994 murder of Dmitry Kholodov, a journalist investigating illegal arms sales during the Russian army's withdrawal from the former East Germany.

President Yeltsin's clear vote of support gives Mr Grachev virtual immunity.

As well as reigning over a rapid rise in corruption in the army during his tenure as defence minister, Mr Grachev bears responsibility — along with Mr Yeltsin — for Russia's defeat in Chechenia, where he deployed the army in 1994.

More than 100,000 deaths ensued, but despite Mr Grachev's unpopularity, it was not until the 1996 presidential elections that Mr Yeltsin finally sacked him.

● The Kremlin denied yesterday that liver problems had stopped President Yeltsin drinking, after Japan's former prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, said he had been told by President Chirac of France that Mr Yeltsin had had liver trouble and been told to stay off alcohol.

But the Kremlin did say he now preferred red wine to vodka — and had had some for breakfast only that day.

# France harkens to 'overworked' pupils' call for a 35-hour week

Paul Webster in Paris

AMBITIOUS parents were put in their place yesterday by a government commission's recommendation that the lycée student's working week should be cut to 35 hours, homework included.

Its six-month inquiry has taken into account the overwhelming complaint in a questionnaire given to children. They said they were working too hard.

Although parents have pressed for a heavier study load, the education minister, Claude Allègre, has been told that schools should come into line with the Socialist policy of a 35-hour working week for all by 2002.

A thousand students, teachers, parents and officials met in Lyon to discuss 49 lycée reforms.

Sympathy for the students' demands could make these the first important changes to education since May 1968 to be received without protest.

Three million secondary school pupils and their 400,000 teachers were consulted. Three quarters of the students answered the questionnaires, compared to only half the teachers.

The recommendations set a weekly maximum of 26 hours of formal lessons at non-technical schools, compared to 32 at present.

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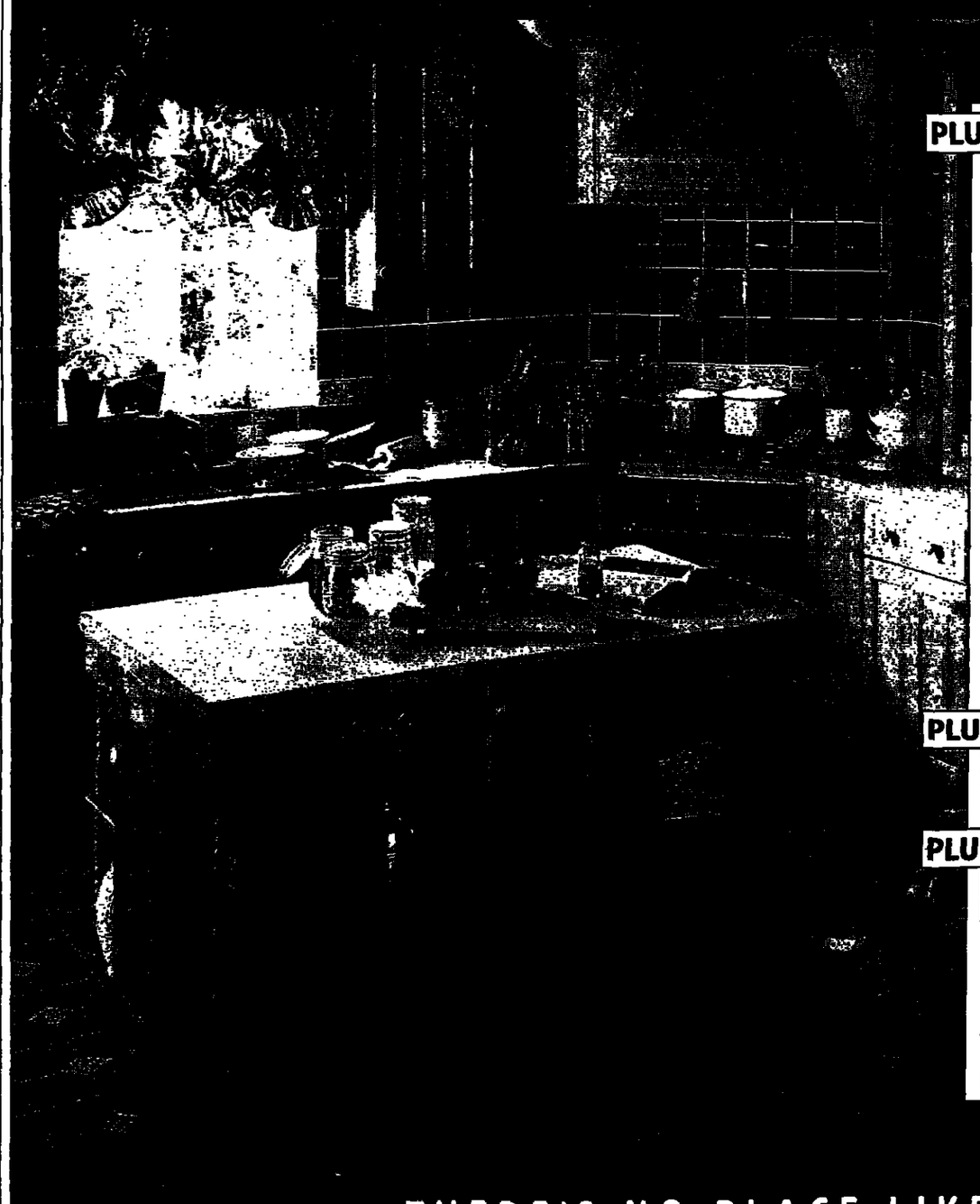

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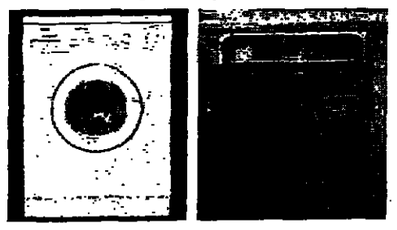

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# Comment

## Diary

**Matthew Norman**

IN what future historians of industrial relations will herald as the finest moment for British trade unionism since the miners brought down the Heath government, staff at the Morning Star celebrate a great victory. The journalists, you will recall, walked out over the plan of chief executive Mary Rosser — head of the dynastic ruling family known as the North Koreans — to replace editor John Haylett with Paul Corry, her son-in-law. After six weeks of the strike, however, the workers triumphed: Mr Haylett was reinstated, and the paper reappeared on the streets. Now, needless to say, the revenge blood-letting has begun. At the weekend, Mrs Rosser was ousted as chair of the Marx Memorial Library, and the comrades prepare to purge her, her husband, family and friends from the Star management at the forthcoming AGM of the co-op that owns the paper. The dynasty is dead. Viva liberty.

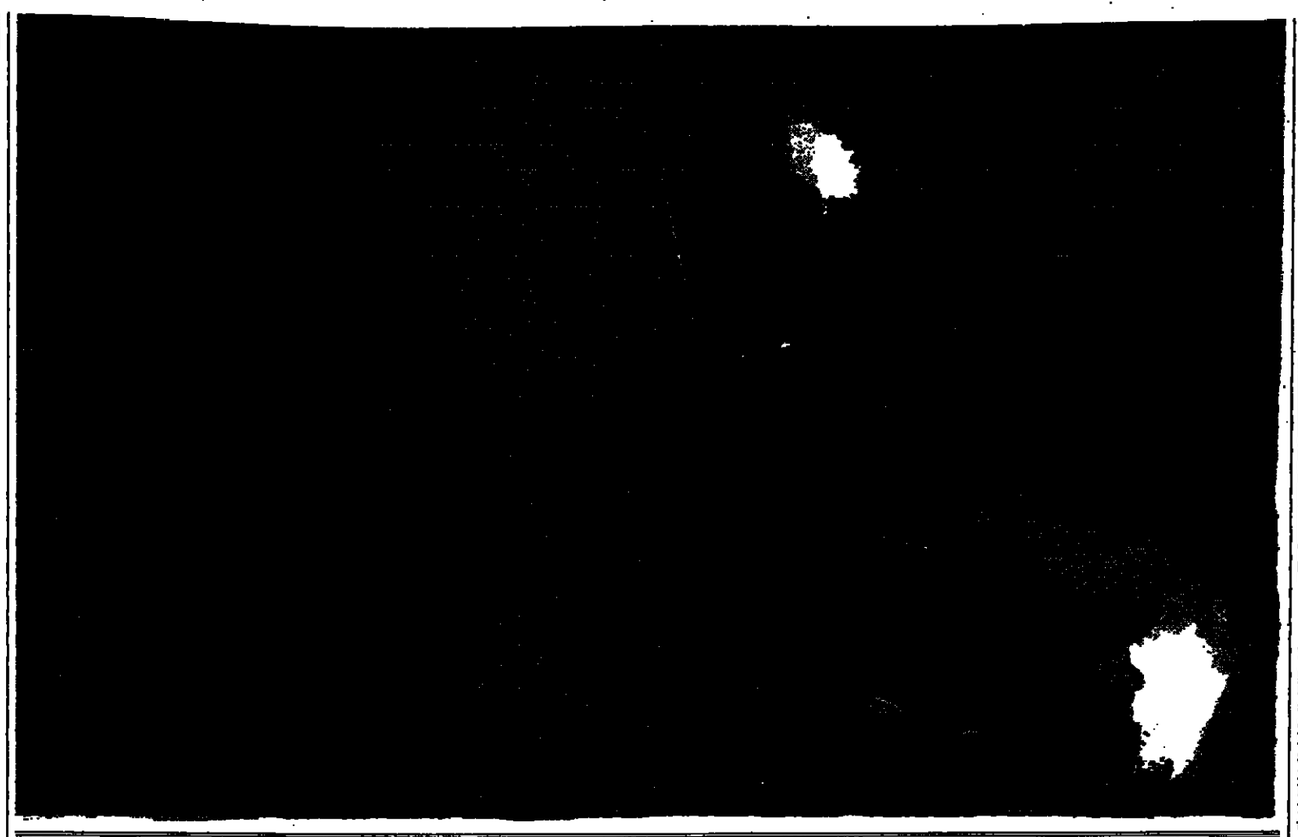
HURRAH, hurrah, she's done it at last! My old friend Helen Brinton, android MP for Peterborough, takes her first tottering step up the Westminster ladder. No one who has followed Helen's lively career as both victim and reporter of alleged wrongdoing on trains will begrudge her appointment to the standing committee on the crime and disorder bill. We wish her and her new colleagues joy of each other, and the very best of luck.

NEVER one to miss a cheeky dig at its rival, the Mirror has news of a New Labour heresy — an attack on Rupert Murdoch by a cabinet minister. Under the headline "Murdoch blamed for yob generation", the paper reports: "Home Secretary Jack Straw suggested his Sun newspaper was partly responsible" for a culture of "laddishness" among young men. Naughty old Sun. And hats off to the Mirror for taking this high moral tone. The name of the Sun's editor when the paper was at its most aggressively laddish escapes me for the minute. If anyone — Mirror editor-in-chief Kelvin McKenzie, or anyone else — can recall, perhaps they could drop a note.

AN unlikely marriage is noted between local government debt collection and the concept of irony. This month's final demand from Hammersmith council for the latest instalment of council tax begins by mentioning the failure to pay. "Whilst I am sure," begins the second paragraph, "that this is an oversight . . ." Is this a joke, I asked the payments clerk, during an audacious bid to avoid a repetition of last year's summons and county court judgment. "A joke?" she replied. "Yes, I think it must be."

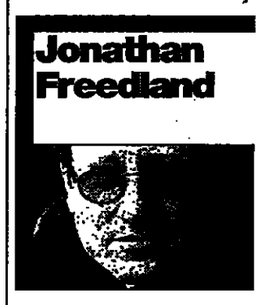
WHAT, we wonder nervously, is to become of Peter Hitchens. The one-time bearded revolutionary now writes a column in the Express, and his old fashioned, knockabout rightwing ranting seems horribly ill-suited to the vibrant New Labour orthodoxies of new editor Rizla Rosie Boycott. "We have had a meeting and she seems very pleasant, very affable," Pete tells us. Some might think she would be closer, spiritually, to your brother Christopher. Might there be a swap? "I wouldn't want to prejudge anything." You haven't been on the look out, then, for other positions? "My first response," says Pete, with some cause, "is that it's none of your business. But since you ask, no." That space will have to be watched.

IN a Sri Lankan court, a defendant has brought metaphor to life in spectacular style. Last month, Sighasinge Premasiri threw a bag filled with human waste at a police witness testifying against him, FHM reports. Alas, he missed the target, hitting instead — have you guessed it? — a fan, which duly redistributed the contents across the entire court. This metaphor has been realised before, of course (when Brian Clough smacked a Nottingham Forest supporter during a pitch invasion): but never quite as literally as this.



# Chris Patten is bound for foreign parts – for that's where Belfast is

**Jonathan Freedland**



IN JUNE last year, Gordon Brown made an offer to George Bush. The two men had just been passengers on a flight from Denver to London — the former US president in first class on his way to the Ryder Cup, the Chancellor in club returning from the G7 summit. Back then, just weeks after the May 1 landslide, Labour was the hottest item on the world political circuit: Bush told his aides he'd like to meet the new guy in Number 11.

The pair met in one of Heathrow's VIP lounges. They talked shop for a while, until the conversation turned to Northern Ireland. Brown said he believed the best guarantor of any future peace deal would be economic prosperity. Then he had an idea: what if the former president agreed to be a kind of "economics czar" for the province, urging the big US corporations to invest there?

Mr Bush was probably a little reluctant: as an ex-president he's avoided taking any formal position anywhere, preferring to help favoured good causes where he can. Still, he said he'd think about it — and sources in London say a Bush role in Northern Ireland remains a possibility.

Whether he gets involved or not, the episode raises a crucial question about the Government's attitude to Ulster — a question sharpened by yesterday's selection of Chris Patten to head the inquiry into the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary: is Northern Ireland a British problem to be solved by Brits, or an international problem, to be solved by outsiders? Judged on its own, the Patten nomination bears all the hallmarks — as they say in Ulster — of smart, New Labour politics. Nationalists are meant to be happy because Patten is a Catholic, Unionists content that he is British. Everyone else should cheer because, once again, Labour has been "inclusive" — showing just how big its "big tent" can be, extending its patronage across party lines.

But it's that British passport which is Chris Patten's most important credential — more valuable even than his past stewardship of Hong Kong. Ulster Unionist Ken Maginnis had warned that his party would not tolerate some "gimmicky international figure" tampering with their beloved RUC. He welcomed Patten as a "mainstream establishment figure".

A revealing choice of words, but no one should be too surprised by this burst of Unionist delight. From the start, they have wanted the peace process to be like Northern Ireland itself: a Brits-only affair. They have opposed any and every attempt to internationalise the conflict.

Unionists objected to Bill Clinton's intervention as soon as it began, seeking to block his earliest move: the despatch of a special envoy to Belfast. They welcomed former senator George Mitchell — now regarded as one of the heroes of the peace process — only grudgingly. As the logic of Unionism requires, they have stubbornly insisted that Northern Ireland is an internal matter for the United Kingdom; the rest of the world can go away.

Predictably, Unionism's opponents have seen matters quite differently. Nationalists, particularly Sinn Fein, have been eager for Northern Ireland to take its place in the rogue's gallery of world conflicts — in the same global category as South Africa or the Middle East. That's why Sinn Fein's recent *ardfheis* was addressed by an emissary of the African National Congress and a Nobel laureate from East Timor — and why the party is currently showing an ANC delegation around Belfast. Another team from the province has spent this week in the Basque country.

Some of these ties have roots in earlier, more bloody alliances — when the IRA and PLO, for example, shared more than ideas. Today Sinn Fein's objective is for world opinion to see the battle in Northern Ireland as it does: as a struggle of an oppressed minority against a foreign power, in cahoots with its settler allies. Every gesture from a liberation movement abroad appears to confirm that message.

THIS Unionist-nationalist difference was on vivid display last May, when Ulster's warring sides flew to a remote South African missile base to learn peace from the men who had broken apartheid. The trouble was, the Unionists refused to meet even Nelson Mandela in the same room as Sinn Fein. The President had to deliver his same speech twice — meeting the two groups separately.

But what of Tony Blair? Does he see Northern Ireland as a little local difficulty or a global trouble spot? The appointment of a British politician like Chris Patten, rather than an international arbitrator, suggests the former. But the Middle East mission last week — where Blair freely likened the Israel-Palestine dispute to Ulster's — points the other way. So which is it?

The answer is that, for Blair, the Troubles look like a foreign problem — and, ironically, the choice of Patten proves it. How else — except by regarding itself as a neutral outsider — could London seriously offer a former government minister as an impartial chairman for the RUC inquiry?

It was the same story throughout the Stormont talks. Secretary of State Mo Mowlam insisted that the British Government had no demands of its own: it would merely "facilitate" the needs of the conflicting parties.

It's a strange way of looking at a conflict which has absorbed so much British money and so much British life. Foreigners find it baffling: they imagine British citizens to be like Americans during the Vietnam war or Israelis during the intifada — obsessed with the battle that is taking the lives of their young men.

But we are not like that. We have remained serenely disengaged — even bored — during the whole business. As this month's Guardian poll found, a plurality of Britons want the Irish Republic to retain its constitutional claim on the north: a collective cry across the Irish sea of "You're welcome to it." It seems Mr Patten was a wise choice. We shall wave him to Belfast the way we sent him off to Hong Kong: wishing him good luck in a strange, faraway land.

# Don't nobble Red Ken

**Polly Toynbee**

MAY DAY marks the great anniversary. Was that the beginning of the end of politics? The end of history? Life without opposition stretches as far as the eye can see. Everywhere lions and lambs are canoodling. Tories are trooping in to hear good news from David Blunkett. Frank Field is calling Tories in to agree a pensions policy to last for ever. Chris Patten is off to Ulster. Is it peace for all time?

This is political heaven where all things are reconciled, one spirit, one voice, one cause — to make things work. There is only one idea, only one party in town. To be sure, there are dissident voices heard far away from the concord of twanging harps, but they sound like sad, fallen angels, bitter and self-excluding from the general harmony. Never have so many been so happy with their government.

Tony Benn warns this week of a permanent all-party coalition. Certainly there's a gleam in Paddy Ashdown's eye hinting that history beckons. A merger now could exclude the Tories forever, a 1,000-year reich for social democracy. There is barely a laser beam between the two parties: how Ashdown struggles to oppose, almost whispering an apology behind his hand as he does it. What is there to say? Yes, a marker can be put down here or there, puffing up a little hot air to sound like difference, but no one's fooled.

What is there poor William Hague can do? He performs elegantly at the despatch box but signifies nothing. Blair's billowing clouds of success engulf him. Even on Europe the issue is dead, sitting so comfortably on the side lines, awaiting our right time, and when it comes — tomorrow or in six years — it will be so self-evidently inevitable that the people will support it. Meanwhile Gordon Brown's prudent coffers fill to bursting, waiting to cushion any recession. We can dispute angels on pins, we can query which social programme works best, suggest a tweak here or there while the powers-that-be lend a warm and willing ear to constructive criticism. Small ideas are welcomed, absorbed, included. But nowhere is there any competing big idea to be found. This is what political heaven feels like.

It is also why heaven doesn't exist. It would be hell. Dispute, argument, conflict, plot, gossip, causes are the stuff of life. Bliss is death. So those who broadly approve and support this Government are left in a quandary, stifled by too much agreement. Contrary creatures, we need the grit in the oyster.

AND here he comes, Mr Grit himself — though grinning that salamander smile, he says he's no pearl. Two polls this week give Ken Livingstone a big head start in the race to be first London mayor. Panic at headquarters. Can they stop him? How? Rumours abound that an all-London primary to choose the candidate will be stitched up: an official shortlist will exclude him. But the London Evening Standard poll shows voters would be outraged at such a move — 74 per cent protesting. Blair's stand for democracy and openness would be shot to pieces. Siren voices murmur that the row would be a one-week wonder, compared with the perpetual mayhem Livingstone would wreak upon the Government from his old fortress across the Thames.

But for lack of any new big idea, even a very old and failed one has its quaint attractions. "I'll keep the virus of socialism going until the tide turns," he says. He never has a bad word to say against Tony Blair, directing his wrath at Gordon Brown instead: the high pound killing off manufacturing industry, the chronic lack of investment, lack of spending on public projects to create jobs. He welcomes welfare to work, but asks where the jobs will come from?

How powerful would he be? The whole idea of city mayors is that, directly elected, they will carry authority to rival Westminster, stir the corpse of local government, breathe new civic pride into great cities, rally the roots of democracy as never before. Totems, icons, galvanisers, their democratic base will count for far more than the carefully restricted powers they are given on paper. When the mayor of London runs a campaign on education or jobs, neither of which he controls, it will carry clout far beyond the puny remit of his powers.

On paper Livingstone would return to a much reduced post. The small sliver of offices left in County Hall, squeezed between a new hotel and aquarium, remains empty, but big enough, he says, for mayor and assembly and their officers. His own old office lies under a carpet of dust alongside the chamber, saved by preservation order. But last time he arrived via undemocratic shenanigans in the Labour Party. This time he would arrive by popular acclaim.

What can he do? Traffic and transport will be his battle cry: a ring of steel to keep cars out beyond the reaches of the Circle Line. Thousands of new Routemaster buses with conductors and fast bus lanes, more black taxis, pedestrian streets and less pollution, "so you can sit outside in Old Compton Street without fumes belching into your cappuccino".

All this would be paid for by punitive charges on public and private parking. The mayor himself will travel by bus.

We need grit in the oyster. Here comes Mr Grit — though he says he's no pearl

He cannot raise taxes or give money to favourite/infamous causes but he'll campaign about London's poverty, the worst in Britain, with 11 constituencies among the nation's 25 poorest. London only gets back 75 per cent of the money it contributes to the Treasury.

None of that need scare Downing Street. No, it is the political opposition they fear, the relentless propaganda beyond the reach of their pagers. If it went badly, if he ruled as imperiously as before, wantonly, impudently reckless of consensus, a bad manager, not a team-player, that could rebound on them at general election time — the red peril resurrected.

Whatever their worst fears, though, they should not even consider interfering with the primary to select Labour's candidate. Glenda Jackson's camp was heartened by the polls that put her only 8 points behind before she's even declared (or learned to smile, which no doubt she will). They think he's peaked too soon: two years of electioneering may yet yield her victory. But even if not, this Government in all its might has to show itself strong enough to brook a measure of opposition. They have little enough anywhere else.

Robin Cook praises our spies – but does he really know what they get up to?

# Tales of MI6

**Richard Norton-Taylor**

IN THEIR exotic, £250 million, Terry Farrell-designed headquarters on the Thames, Britain's secret agents were purring last week as Robin Cook, the foreign secretary, dressed up in bow tie and tails, trumpeted MI6's triumphs in a speech at the Mansion House. He singled out the intelligence agency's success in tracking "Iran's nuclear weapons programme", and enabling the Government "to disrupt Iranian attempts to procure British technology".

The boasts were followed by an immediate claim by a hardline Tehran newspaper that a Briton had been arrested in Iran and had confessed to being an MI6 spy. That story was rubbish, as Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's foreign minister, quickly acknowledged. Gwynne Roberts, a British journalist, had indeed been arrested, and quickly freed. But it was last November, while making a film about the fate of Kurds gassed in Halabja by Saddam Hussein in 1988 (an episode which did not prevent the then government, similarly aided and abetted by MI6, from continuing to supply Saddam with weapons).

But it would not be entirely surprising if elements in Iran were a bit sore about Mr Cook's remarks. Tehran must have known already that it was one of MI6's priority targets. Did not British newspapers last year describe in detail how "intelligence services" had uncovered a secret attempt by Iran to acquire sophisticated nuclear weapons technology from British companies?

Two days after Mr Cook's speech, it emerged that Mikhail Butkov, a former KGB officer who defected to MI6 in 1991, had been jailed for defrauding Russian businessmen. Butkov, it was reported, had helped MI6 disrupt Iranian attempts to buy nuclear equipment from the west.

Could this be the same MI6 which was approached in the early 1980s by Vladimir Kuzichkin, KGB's station chief in Tehran? Mr Kuzichkin passed MI6 the names of members of the Tudeh Iranian Communist Party, who were promptly tortured and executed.

MI6 can have its cake and eat it by selective planting of stories

Could it be the same MI6 who in 1985 approached Jamshid Hashemi, an Iranian-born arms dealer, to pass on information about Iranian arms purchases, and subsequently allowed him to supply Iran with Chinese Silkworm missiles in direct violation of the government's guidelines banning weapons exports to Iran and Iraq, then engaged in a bitter war?

It is deeply ironic that barely a week after Mr Cook delivered his speech, the former MI6 officer Richard Tomlinson will be released from jail. Mr Tomlinson was given a 12-month prison sentence last year for disclosing details of MI6 operations in a book synopsis he gave to an Australian publisher.

Mr Tomlinson, who said he was sacked by MI6 on the grounds that he did not understand MI6 "work practices", also infiltrated a weapons procurement network operated by a Middle East country. Iran perhaps?

According to the Sunday Times, the plan involved intercepting a shipment of machinery and interfering with its extractor fan equipment. It was approved by a senior cabinet minister despite warnings of possible risks to the lives of civilians. MI6 subsequently obtained a court injunction, preventing Mr Tomlinson from revealing more about MI6 operations, though it does not prevent him from going to Australia or any other country and publishing his book there.

So Mr Cook — who may even have been anticipating further disclosures from Mr Tomlinson — can praise MI6 operations while MI6 can have its cake and eat it by selective planting of stories, using the courts and the Official Secrets Act whenever it suits them.

Mr Cook claimed that MI6 was adapting to the "fresh priorities" of the new Labour Government. Trying to prevent nuclear proliferation is fine, but it certainly isn't a policy invented by this Government. And do the ends justify any means? What else is MI6 up to? Does Mr Cook know? Would he tell us if he did?

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# Living with the euro

## But the UK is right to wait

IT IS surprising how long it has taken for people to realise that even though Britain is not joining European Monetary Union in the first wave, we will nevertheless be faced with the prospect of the euro starting to circulate in Britain of its own accord. The Treasury Select Commitee did a service to draw attention to this and other aspects of EMU in its latest report released yesterday. Life won't be the same again after this weekend when the 11 founder members of monetary union will decide among other things the exchange rates at which their currencies will irrevocably join together. The euro has arrived despite all the woeful predictions as recently as 15 months ago that it wouldn't happen. The question now is how far it will infiltrate across the channel and whether its early track record will hasten or retard Britain's own entry. Big companies and financial institutions are already swinging over to the euro in a big way out of self-interest.

Pilkington, the glass company, told MPs it was converting all its systems to using the euro because it would eliminate differences in production costs in different European plants. ICI said that euro cash would spread throughout the economy and Siemens added that even if Britain did not join the single currency, "the euro will come through the back door" because companies and people who are paid in euros will want to spend them in the UK. Sainsbury's says that just as it accepts Irish Punts in its stores in Northern Ireland, so it will accept all types of European payments from 2002 (when euro notes and coins start to circulate). Suddenly, there's no need to cash surplus foreign currency when you return from that European holiday.

Members of the public will find it in their self-interest to think in terms of the euro because it will enable them to locate places in Europe where prices (henceforth denominated in the same currency) are cheaper. But the degree to which they take out euro savings deposits, notes and coins, mortgages — or even have their wages paid in euros — will depend on relative inflation rates between the UK and Euroland and the extent to which the Government encourages circulation of the euro as a second currency. One practical factor which will slow the march of the euro is that scarce computer staff will be so tied up with trying to solve the millennium bug that they may not have the resources to convert other systems to the euro.

MPs were right to point out that there could be a cost to *not* joining the euro if things go wrong for us (as much as 1 per cent of GDP by 2005) and that a true evaluation of the "success" of monetary union will take at least five years because of the need to study the effects over a full business cycle. This is much longer than the political timetable that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have in mind. Equally there is a potentially lethal cost if Britain joined a monetary union which went wrong because (say) European interest rates had to be kept high to stop inflation in France and Germany while the UK economy needed low interest rates to pull it out of recession and high unemployment. Since the potential risks are so high and because (unlike the rest of the EU) there is no big political momentum in the UK for early entry, Britain's decision to watch and wait is the right one. Let companies and individuals decide to accept the euro or not. The nation can make a collective decision later.

# Vintage Paddy

## The Lib Dems are a driving force

THIS IS Tony Blair's week as he marks his first year at the summit of British politics. But others should also be marking the anniversary of the May 1 earthquake.

After the Prime Minister, few politicians can reflect on these last 12 months with greater satisfaction than Mr Ashdown. There are rumbles of dissent — most notably from Charles Kennedy — but these should not be taken too seriously: ambitious MPs always like to put down markers. But Mr Ashdown is in strong command, heading a Liberal Democrat party that is getting results.

The Ashdown strategy of co-operation where possible, obstruction where necessary has already borne more fruit for the Lib Dems in a year than they gathered in decades of struggle. The plum of proportional representation has moved from a marginal obsession to a genuine possibility. A Liberal Democrat, Roy Jenkins, chairs a commission on electoral reform which is likely to recommend a form of PR for the House of Commons. PR is already promised in Scotland, Wales and London as well as in next year's elections to the European Parliament. Lib Dem passions — like devolution itself, the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and a freedom of information act — have become policy. And, to crown it all, the party has seats around the Cabinet table, with places on the committee on constitutional change. Paddy Ashdown likes to joke that the Lib Dems have effectively staged a reverse takeover of the Labour party.

So much for the "constructive", but what about the "opposition"? Here, too, Liberal Democrats can pat themselves on the back. Malcolm Bruce, not Peter Lilley, pointed out the flaws in Gordon Brown's first budget; they, not the Tories, led the charge against the Government's most unpopular policy: the cut in lone parents' benefit.

More deeply, "constructive opposition" may be more than smart strategy. It could be, as Mr Ashdown boasts, a happy fit with Britain's "new politics": instead of the punch-and-judy of the past, a new, less partisan, more solution-oriented form of national debate. He is convinced that what voters want to see are their politicians working together. Charles Kennedy and others worry that such co-operation is forcing Lib Dems to pull their punches, swallowing them up into the grand New Labour coalition. Eventually, fears Mr Kennedy, voters will have no reason to vote for them at all.

Who is right will not be certain until the next election. If it's fought the way they want it — on a PR system — they are bound to do well. If it's not, and they keep cheering Mr Blair, they may struggle to keep their 46 seats. But such worries are a fair way off. For now, they should stick with the strategy that has served them so well: they are beginning to make some of their dreams come true.

# Normal service

## Or so MPs like to pretend

WHY is it news when a prominent politician does something normal, like getting on a tube train, riding a bike, shopping, or eating fast food? The answer is that such occasions are a curious test of authenticity. Pulling them off takes nerve and style. Fumbling such affairs can be a political disaster. President Bush's innocent surprise when a supermarket clerk checked his "purchases" with an electronic reader turned a photo-opportunity into an unscripted pantomine. Bush showed himself to be an ordinary multi-millionaire rather than an ordinary man, which some people found rather sweet but more found irritating.

Britain's new Conservative leader, William Hague, has made several excursions into the land of normality, most famously in a baseball cap and yesterday on the London Underground. Mr Hague's problem is not a lack of sincerity. He comes from a perfectly ordinary background and may well enjoy such activities as whooshing down a swimming pool chute, or even travelling on the tube. But he is too obviously clever, too fascinated by political lore, and, in a word, too odd, to come over well in contrived "normal" roles or in the headgear described by the American scholar Paul Fussell as a "prole cap". It is now widely known that Winston Churchill and Harold Wilson shared a taste for brandy and cigars, but the latter always took care to appear in public with a pipe and a pint. He got away with that, while Churchill was honoured by a whole line in the spoof version of The Red Flag ("We'll make Winston Churchill smoke a Woodbine every day"). Back to the tube, on which Denis Healey genuinely travelled to Westminster during Labour's years in opposition. Asked by an elderly lady why he was using such plebian transport, old beetle brows supposedly replied: "It's because you kicked me out, my dear." So Mr Hague is in good company.

## Letters to the Editor

### Cancer, Clinton and the Quiz

HOW convenient for smokers that modern medicine has found a way of reducing their risk of developing cancer (Cancer 'key gene discovery', April 28). How will the new gene pill be marketed — one in every pack of 20? And I wonder which large industry will fund the research?
**Michael Bond.**
Luton, Beds.

KEN Norman (Letters, April 25) accuses me of sneering at those who wish to help Louise Woodward (Letters, April 23). The only sneering attitude is that of assuming that every Briton arrested for a crime abroad is innocent, and that every foreigner arrested for a crime in Britain is guilty. The lack of public support for Louise Nicole Sullivan proves this point.
**Gerard Friel.**
Old Kilpatrick,
Dumbartonshire.

JOHN Dean is wrong in suggesting that the "black and Jew" were the same person. Joey Bishop (Joseph Abraham Gottlieb) was a member of the Rat Pack for much longer than Peter Lawford (Letters, April 28). And, anyway, Dino was much prettier than Rock Hudson.
**Sue Hornby.**
Southport, Merseyside.

IS IT true that a poster on a Birmingham bus shelter bears the legend: "Take your dentures out, Marge. Bill Clinton is coming to town."
**Steve Elliot.**
London.

WHERE is the Quiz?? What have you done with the Quiz???
**Cliff Lovelock.**
Horley, Surrey.
*(Marcel Berlins' Quiz and Chris Maslanka's Brain Waves are now in Weekend Sport — Ed).*

# In defence of Mary Bell

MARY Bell committed a terrible crime when she was 11. She was tried and sentenced, and served that sentence. If we believe in our legal system, then we have to accept that, from the moment she left prison, Mary Bell had exactly the same rights and obligations as everybody else (Mary Bell memoir shows lack of remorse, April 28). She has paid her debt to society. If she received money for her collaboration in Gitta Sereny's book, Cries Unheard, she has not broken the law.

If it is immoral for Mary Bell to be paid and — as the mother of one of the victims has suggested — she should give her earnings to charity, is it moral for generals or admirals, who have been paid excellent salaries and received substantial perks during their careers, to earn a great deal of money by telling us about wars they conducted and keep it, rather than give it to the British Legion?

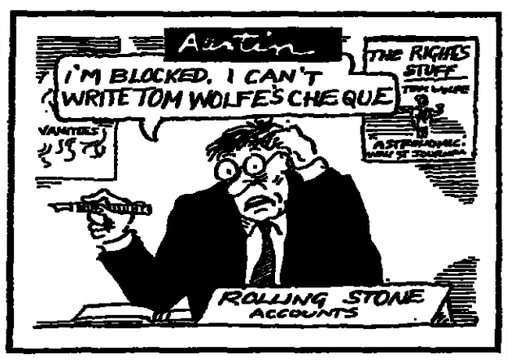
As a free citizen, Mary Bell should be entitled to do exactly what any other free citizen can do — and that includes being paid for talking about her life if people want to read about it. Whether she should or shouldn't discuss her past as a matter of respect towards her victims' families is a matter for her and her conscience, not the law. The real issue is the conflict between law, that must be rational, and public emotion, which is not. It is sad to see the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister so eager to respond to the latter.
**Tom Hackwood.**
London.

IT IS RIGHT Gitta Sereny's book should be written to illustrate how a child killer is created, what social factors were there to induce a child to such deviant behaviour. Society should be made aware that children such as Mary Bell and the Bulger murderers are victims themselves — of abusive surroundings, neglect, exposure to stimulus which was traumatic to them, and then society can watch for the signs in order to prevent further similar events.

Mary Bell has been punished and probably scarred herself from the reaction, so the problem left is, should she take the profits? I think if she was seen to donate any profits say to a research body or a charity for the relatives of the deceased, this would have a better effect on the public.

I cannot believe a child is born evil or that a child is genetically predisposed to evil. Understanding the root cause is the only way forward. The way she has lived since her incarceration is also important.
**Angela McManus.**
London.

HOW can two murders followed by 12 years in prison and then 18 blameless years constitute "a life of crime"? How can payments for a book describing those 18 blameless years be described as "assets from a life of crime"? How can Jack Straw contemplate bending the law so it will harm Mary Bell and her daughter simply to appease those who will never be appeased?
***Michael Catty.***
Stevenage.




### Chapter and verse on first editions

BEFORE your readers rush to their copy of The English Patient and assume it is a first edition worth £250, a warning should apply (Seen the film but will you seek the book? Jobs and Money, April 25). It is only the first impression (ie first print run from the set up type) that is of interest to collectors. Any references to a later impression devalue the book. Modern publishers use a peculiar numbering system to indicate the impression. On the page where the publishing details are printed there will be a series of numbers (1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2). Only if the "1" is present is the book a first impression.

Another field of interest to collectors of modern firsts is crime novels, where the same rules apply: first novels have low print runs and high subsequent value. A classic example is Minette Walters's first novel The Ice House (£300-plus) partly fuelled by the TV series. Lindsay Davis's first Falco novel, The Silver Pigs, has a similar premium even without a TV adaptation. Of course, fashion and supply and demand dominate and a scarce book no one wants is valueless.
**Dave Garnett.**
Cardiff.

### Hysteria over HIV helps no one

SO here we are again. First, there is no need for the hysteria being whipped up against health workers who have HIV (Mothers alarmed at HIV positive midwife, April 16). There is no recorded evidence of transmission of HIV from health worker to patient in this country.

Second, there is no point in compulsory HIV testing (HIV tests urged for pregnant women, April 28). HIV may develop between tests being taken, and the costs of testing everyone are massive. Calls for compulsory testing simply drive people away from services. The focus on the unborn child never seems to include support for the HIV positive mother; having a test is not giving a cure.

Third, it is wrong, counter-productive and unworkable to make HIV transmission a crime (Jail for woman who spread Aids, April 28). The understandable anger of someone who has become HIV positive is not a good reason for a bad law which affects everyone. People must not be deterred from voluntary testing and treatment. What good is served by imprisoning someone with a life-threatening illness?

What we need is effective and accurate health education about HIV — we all need to know in everyday language the routes of transmission and the nature of the disease — and we need appropriate treatment and care for people with HIV. The atmosphere generated by the climate of witch-hunting puts more people at risk than anyone who is HIV positive — midwife or mother — ever can.
**Dr John Nicholson.**
Director, George House Trust,
Manchester.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters. The Country Diary is on page 10.

### Rwanda rights

MARK Lattimer of Amnesty International (Letters, April 27) is wrong to suggest that defence witnesses in Rwanda were frequently intimidated. Mobile brigades of investigations have been set up purely to solve problems of those who could have been arrested arbitrarily.

I hope that now Mr Lattimer is convinced that people like Joseph Ruyenzi are not political prisoners as Amnesty had let people believe. I am however comforted that he is campaigning to bring those who committed genocide to justice. I hope that this campaign extends to those hiding in the Vatican, Paris, Brussels and Nairobi.

I would also like to assure Sousa Jamba that the justice system in Rwanda is independent of Rwandan leaders and that punishing those who committed genocide is not savagery but real justice.
**Dr Zac Nsenga.**
Ambassador,
Embassy of Rwanda,
London.

### Why I can't be philosophical about Shell's involvement

ON A forthcoming visit to England I had agreed to speak at the Centre for Philosophical Studies at King's College, London. Some weeks later I was disturbed to be told that my lecture was being advertised as supported by Shell UK Ltd. No mention of this funding had been made to me before I accepted the invitation.

In view of Shell's appalling record of environmental damage, its lack of respect for the rights of the Ogoni people of the Niger delta, from whose land it takes much of its oil, and its involvement with the Nigerian military regime, responsible for the deaths of Ogoni protesters, including the playwright Ken Saro Wiwa, I was not willing to receive support from any Shell company.

I have therefore withdrawn my acceptance of the original invitation.

I have been told that cuts to government funding have made it difficult for British universities to function without seeking money from business.

If this is true, it is surely something to deplore. No matter how much a university may protest that money comes with no strings attached, when a centre for philosophy becomes dependent on funding from a corporation like Shell, there is a real danger that the nature of the funding could have an influence, consciously or not, on the activities of philosophers in the centre.

Even if this does not occur, the distinction between a truly independent academic and a hired researcher has been blurred, and the prestige of the university in general and its philosophers in particular has been captured by a corporation of dubious ethical standing.
**Peter Singer.**
Centre for Human Bioethics,
Monash University,
Clayton,
Victoria.

# Israel and what not

**Mark Steel**

WHEN people turn 50, they often get an urge to prove they can still do things they did in their youth. Some men do this by having an affair with a younger woman. Israel does it by bulldozing a settlement. Just to prove it can still manage it.

Yet when Robin Cook tried mildly to draw attention to this by suggesting he visit a Palestinian area, he was declared to have made a gaffe. At first an official probably whispered to him: "Look Robin, if you really want to see that bit of land, just come back next year. It'll be Israeli by then."

The condemnation of Cook has proved that Israel is considered beyond criticism, like a king in a medieval court. When Cook made his slightly critical remarks, it was as if everybody gasped, there were a few seconds of stunned silence and then an old man in a cloak bellowed: "Woe, for the ginger one has spake ill of he who must be obeyed."

Yet any honest speech made at the birthday party would have to admit it hasn't been the most pleasant 50 years. It would have to acknowledge that the birth itself had complications, with the midwife having to massacre entire villages before the delivery could be made. That shortly afterwards 700,000 Arabs were driven off their land, which must be the worst ever case of the terrible twos. That at the age of 19, like any stroppy teenager, it wasn't happy being stuck at home, so moved into illegally occupied territories. That, like most people in their thirties it began to feel the need for privacy, so kept quiet about building a pile of nuclear weapons. And that as it approached 50 it became less tolerant of noise from the neighbours, so demolished their houses.

If the West was consistent, there'd be boycotts of their oranges, their dissidents would be hailed as heroes and The Sun would scream that they were smuggling anthrax into Britain in bagels.

Obviously the reason most people feel reticent about criticising Israel is the tragic history of the Jews which preceded its birth. Though of all people why should the Palestinians be to blame? If Israel had attacked England or the US for refusing to accept refugees from Nazi Germany, or bulldozed Catholic churches for collaborating with Hitler, you couldn't grumble. But there's little evidence that Hitler was an Arab.

INSTEAD Israel owes its very existence to the US, which funded and armed it as its policeman in the Middle East. Though America's dilemma is that sometimes its hard man gets out of control, like Sonny in The Godfather. Occasionally Saddam shouts "asshole", and Israel's out there with a baseball bat while America pleads: "Cool it. This is business, not personal."

Other past friends include apartheid South Africa, and the military regimes of Chile and Argentina. For Zionism derives not from resistance to anti-Semitism, but accepting it as inevitable, so building a homeland which is the tool of a superpower. Which means being friendly with the boss's allies.

It also means allowing no possibility of the people you displace having any rights. So the sort of Palestinian state which could be offered was described by the Israeli Labour Party as "a state without might, but with a flag and stamps and what not". Not even an entry in the Eurovision Song Contest. Unless that's included in the what not. Besides, is there any point to a Palestinian postal service? More often than not the postmen would take the letter to the address on the envelope, and find out the street's been knocked down.

Not even that is on offer from Netanyahu though, dedicated to the prevention of peace. Instead he's refusing to hand back 13 per cent of the occupied territories, in return for a Palestinian commitment to control their own militants. Which doesn't seem a bad offer. If you were caught burgling someone's house and they offered to keep quiet if you gave them back 13 per cent of the stuff, it would be quite cocky to shout "And what do I get out this?"

Which is why peace will need more than Tony Blair's magical advice for "each side to give a little". Anyway, Blair's advice on how to deal with Islamic teenagers shouting abuse at soldiers will probably be to name and shame their school, and set them an extra 40 minutes a night homework.

Instead, if he wants to commemorate Israel's birthday he should just send it one of those jokey cards with a picture on the front of some youths chucking rubble at a tank. And written above it: "Here's some Hamas militants for your 50th birthday." Then inside: "Because at your age it's the only thing you'll see looking hard and rising up."

Nguyen Van Linh

# Winning a war, losing a revolution

THE FORMER general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Van Linh, who has died aged 82, had one of the most unorthodox, turbulent careers of any leader in that country. After years as a secretive guerrilla leader, he launched Vietnam on the road to market reforms. Often out of step with Hanoi's leaders, he pushed for economic change and the end of central planning earlier than others, but then regretted many of the results of the reforms that he initiated.

In 1986, with Vietnam's economy near collapse, the Communist Party removed its ageing leaders and Nguyen Van Linh took over as general secretary. He began reforms known as *doi moi* (renovation) — a Vietnamese answer to Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet changes. Linh raged against a moribund bureaucracy and pushed through the first steps opening Vietnam to the outside world after years of isolation. Linh encouraged a more open media and a more tolerant environment. Writers and artists flourished; newspapers galvanised support for reforms. Linh shrugged off ideology and told hard-liners that "nothing is stronger than reality" and the reality was that Vietnam needed to transform its economy.

But the fall of communism and the Soviet Union's collapse caused Linh to rethink. He became increasingly conservative, railing against many of the problems that he believed had been caused by reforms. A cut-off in Soviet aid meant Vietnam could not close the door on the outside world but Linh did tighten up at home, ratcheting back many of the cultural and political freedoms he had allowed. Although often described as "Vietnam's Gorbachev", Linh was contemptuous of a man who he felt had betrayed the socialist bloc. He stepped down as general secretary in 1991, but remained behind the scenes, sniping at the government over the corruption that afflicted its ranks.

Born in Hanoi, his father was a teacher at a colonial French lycée who died young, leaving Linh to be brought up by a civil servant uncle in Haiphong. At the age of 15 he was jailed for 18 months for distributing anti-French leaflets. As France tried to tighten its grip on the restive colony, his jail term was extended and he was sent off to the notorious prison island of Poulo Condore. This brutal penitentiary was known as "the university of the revolution" because of the number of communist leaders who served time there, including former premier Pham Van Dong and Communist Party leader Le Duan. Linh was released under a 1936 amnesty but was sent back to the island five years later until all political prisoners were released in 1945.

After France was ousted from Vietnam and the country divided under the 1954 Geneva Accords, Linh was ordered to stay in south Vietnam, becoming one of the few of the "winter cadres" who lived through the purges by the United States-backed

government of Ngo Dinh Diem.

He occupied senior political posts in south Vietnam throughout the war but was little known. When he emerged as a senior official in Saigon after the communist victory in 1975, US intelligence had no clear idea who he was. In the triumphalist atmosphere after that victory the Hanoi government pushed quickly towards Soviet-style economic planning. Linh resisted the moves, playing a new game of economic guerrilla warfare against the ideologues in Hanoi as he tried to limit the impact on the more market-oriented south. Linh entered the Communist Party politburo in 1976 but did not fare well amidst Hanoi's political intrigues.

> After stepping down as party leader he grew increasingly critical of the graft of officials and turned on foreign investors he had welcomed into Vietnam

A rush towards industrialisation and the establishment of agricultural co-operatives pushed the country towards an economic nadir. Linh was on the wrong side of the argument and in 1982 he was dropped from the politburo. He returned to Ho Chi Minh City (the former Saigon), and kept up his fight for a more open economy. By 1986, as Vietnam faced hyperinflation and famine, Linh emerged from his political wilderness and, back in Hanoi, became party general secretary. At the party congress he worked around the hesitant bureaucracy and used the media to push ahead with reform. He urged writers and intellectuals to give up "bending their nibs" for state propaganda and expose corruption and mismanagement. Thousands of party cadres were sacked, the economy liberalised, restrictions on travel lifted and the war in Cambodia ended. Linh even wrote his own column in the newspaper Nhan Dan under the initials NVL, which were said to stand for the Vietnamese for "speak and act". His column attacking corruption and urging support for reforms was at first read with much interest, as up until then the official press had only ever printed good news or windy diatribes against Vietnam's enemies. However, it was soon spread around that NVL actually stood for "speak and deceive."

By 1989, reforms were flagging. The spectre of the collapse of communism had undermined Linh's belief in reforms and he was in poor health. The media was ordered to toe the line. Internal security measures were revived as the party lived in fear of the protests that had rocked China and eastern Europe. Linh stepped down in 1991 but remained an advisor to the Central Committee, but it was not to be a quiet retirement. He grew increasingly critical of the graft of party officials and even turned on the foreign investors he had welcomed into Vietnam. He disparaged writers he had once encouraged to be outspoken.

Although ailing, Linh kept up his attendance at party meetings, often breaking through the rhetorical white noise by naming corrupt officials and accusing the party of ineptness. He distanced himself from the reforms he started and was said to dread that he would be remembered as the man whose reforms marked the beginning of the end of Communist Vietnam. He urged Vietnam to limit foreign investment and to adopt strategies of self-reliance. At the eighth party congress in 1996, Linh was blistering in his criticisms of economic policies, even as the party tried to project a friendly image to foreign investors.

Like most Vietnamese leaders, he kept his family life resolutely private although he was married and had a number of children. He spent his final years in Ho Chi Minh City, meeting visiting dignitaries who passed through the city.

**Bob Templer**

Nguyen Van Linh, Vietnamese politician, born July 15, 1915; died April 27, 1998

Rose Maddox

# Songs for hard times

ROSE Maddox, who has died aged 72, was, Johnny Cash suggested, an American classic. When she started working on his show, she was, he said "probably the most fascinating, exciting performer that I'd ever seen in my life. She was a total performer. She captivated the audience. The songs that she sang were classics. And I loved the way she sang and kinda danced at the same time. I thought there was, and still think that there'll never be, a woman who could outperform Rose Maddox."

Maddox's story began as a classic American tale. Like the Joads in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes Of Wrath* — though setting out from rural Alabama — Charlie and Lulla Maddox and five of their seven children hitchhiked and rode boxcars to cross the depression-battered South and the erosion-ravaged midwest of the early 1930s, pursuing work in the southern Californian fruit orchards that would soon be sardonically hymned by Woody Guthrie.

After a few years of harvesting peaches at three cents a box, two of the boys, Fred and Cal, decided their future lay in picking guitars rather than fruit, and talked their way into a Modesto radio show sponsored by a local furniture store. In 1939, with their 14-year-old sister Rose as lead singer, they beat 14 other bands in a four-state contest.

The young Rose Maddox was unique. Over the barely controlled riot stirred up by her brothers — there were now four of them in the band — a swirling string ensemble punctuated by adlibs, hot solos, whoops and cackles, she carolled like a Rocky Mountain nightingale, loud, clear and feisty. "She's really something," enthused Hank Williams, the brightest country star of the period. "When she sings songs like *Trump on the Street* and *Gathering Flowers for the Master's Bouquet*, she sounds pure as the drifted snow. Then she'll turn around and sing my *Honky Tonkin'* and sound just like a gal that's straight out of a cat house!"

Road to fame . . . Rose with Fred and Cal in 1938, and below an earlier newspaper account of the family's trek across America, with Rose in the centre

FAMILY ROAMS U.S. FOR WORK

Decked in buckskin and satin, embroidered with hearts and flowers, the "Maddox Brothers and Rose" became known to audiences up and down the western seaboard as "America's Most Colorful Hillbilly Band". They had the attitude to match. Striding into the office of 4 Star Records in Pasadena, they announced, "We have selected you to record us."

"They were really rather impressive," remembered producer Dori Pierce. "You got the feeling that nobody could hardly stop these people. They were irrepressible."

The vitality of their early recordings and their — luckily preserved — radio shows, perfectly tuned alike to America's postwar optimism and to the boisterous mood of the rodeo circuit where they found their first audiences, was somewhat muted when they signed with a major label, Columbia, in 1951. Sensing the passing of their heyday, the family group disbanded in 1956, but Rose continued as a solo act and had several country chart hits in the early 1960s, such as her duets with Buck Owens, *Mental Cruelty* and *We're the Talk of the Town*. In 1963, she was voted best female country vocalist by the trade papers Billboard and Cashbox.

Whether by temperament or training, Rose Maddox was willing to sing anything that was accepted by the country music audience, from gospel songs to rockabilly boogies and anthems of honkytonk heartache like *Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain* — revived years later by Willie Nelson. So it surprised no one who knew her work when she made an album simply called *Bluegrass*, assisted by Bill Monroe, Don Reno and Red Smiley. A decade or so later, she formed another alliance that testified to her status, when she recorded the album *Queen of the West*, with Merle Haggard and his band the Strangers.

Throughout her working life — and she worked almost to the end — Rose Maddox remained faithful to the glitzy Hollywood-Western costumes of her exuberant youth. If her style earned her the derision of sophisticates at Rolling Stone magazine, it endeared her to old and new fans alike, and though she had no place in Nashville's country music establishment, she found plenty of friends among admirers of western music, bluegrass and, particularly in Europe, rockabilly. She was the subject of a television biography and appeared in another, devoted to Woody Guthrie, in which she tells his son Arlo how Woody taught her his song *Philadelphia Lawyer*, many years earlier when they were both saloon singers playing for tips.

Following a heart attack and three months in a coma in 1988, she defied doctors' predictions by getting back not only on her feet but on the road and working again. On her last album, *$35 and a Dream*, in 1994, she was joined again by Merle Haggard, who sang a quiet background harmony on his song, *Dusty Memories*, commemorating "the hardest times of all" that they had both triumphantly survived. She in her turn is survived by three grandchildren.

**Tony Russell**

Rose Maddox, country music singer, born August 15, 1925; died April 15, 1998

Marvin Worth

# True lives and Lenny

IN THE past, the Hollywood biographical picture, affectionately known as the "biopic", could have justifiably carried the customary caveat in small print that "any resemblance between the characters in the picture to any persons alive or dead is purely coincidental".

Marvin Worth, who has died of lung cancer aged 72, was known as "Mr Biopic Producer", and he tried to rectify this by getting nearer the truth of his subjects than was usual. His advantage was that he knew many of the people portrayed in the string of film and TV biopics he produced.

*Lenny* (1974), about the outrageous cult nightclub performer Lenny Bruce, was the first such film. When Worth was a show business booker and manager in the 1950s, Lenny Bruce signed with him, leading to a spot on what was then one of American television's most popular slots, *The Arthur Godfrey Show*. It was an appearance which launched the young comedian's career.

Lennie Bruce died of drug abuse in 1966, two months short of his 44th birthday. Worth, a close friend, tried for six years to set up a screen biography. In 1971, he had managed to present Julian Barry's acclaimed play *Lenny* on Broadway, with Cliff Gorman winning a Tony in the title role. Because the subject dealt with strong sex, strong drugs and strong language, film companies, even in the early 1970s, were rather timid about handling it. Worth eventually sparked the interest of Bob Fosse, who managed to get United Artists to throw timidity aside and produce it.

HAVING known Bruce well, Worth was able to help Dustin Hoffman in details of his brilliant characterisation. When the film was completed, Worth arranged for the premiere to be a benefit for the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union — which had paid many of Bruce's legal bills during his lifetime.

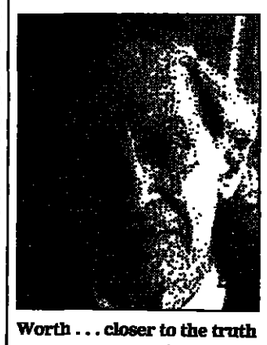
It was Worth's friendship with Malcolm Little, whom he knew as "Detroit Red" in the jazz circles of New York in the 1940s, when he was handling Charlie Parker and Billie Holiday, that helped him produce and direct his feature-length documentary *Malcolm X* (1972) and produce Spike Lee's biopic of the same name 20 years later. On both occasions, he had the assistance of Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz.

The one-sided documentary, narrated by James Earl Jones, opened effectively with a black screen from which came Billie Holiday's singing of *Strange Fruit*. More jazz from Holiday (*God Bless the Child*) and Duke Ellington (*The Mooch and Flat Foot Floogie*) punctuated the film, which was a good mix of period footage and contemporary interviews. For the over-budget, didactic Spike Lee picture, the best part of which were the jazzy pre-Black Muslim scenes, Worth obtained the rights of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley.

Worth was brought up in Brooklyn, and as a precocious 15-year-old was already promoting jazz concerts. While still in his early twenties, he and his childhood friend, Arne Sultan, were among the top TV gagsmiths, writing for Steve Allen — for which they received an Emmy — Buddy Hackett, Milton Berle and Joey Bishop, as well as the Judy Garland Show.

In the 1960s, before becoming a producer, he and Sultan co-wrote the story for three naughtyish comedies, *Boys' Night Out*, *Promise Her Anything* and *Three on a Couch*, the latter being one of Jerry Lewis's worst movies. Among his work as a producer, he oversaw such films as *Falling In Love* (1984), a "brief encounter" between Robert de Niro and Meryl Streep; and two unnecessary remakes of better pictures, *Unfaithfully Yours* (1983), and *Diabolique* (1996).

More interesting were the biopics. There was Paul Schrader's *Patty Hearst* (1988)



Worth . . . closer to the truth

and *The Rose* (1979), loosely based on the life of Janis Joplin, and both dependent on powerful performances, from Natasha Richardson and Bette Midler respectively. On TV there was *Norma Jean and Marilyn* (1996) and *Gia* (1998) on the life, death and heroin addiction of a fashion model.

Marvin Worth, is survived by his wife of 44 years, the artist Joan Worth. He was working, at the time of his death, on *The James Dean Story*.

**Ronald Bergan**

Marvin Worth, film producer, born June 25, 1925; died April 22, 1998

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

ON PAGE VI of the Guardian Higher Education supplement yesterday, we gave the wrong telephone number to be called by undergraduates and post-graduates seeking more information about the Association of Business Schools' Award for business and management students. The number we gave connected callers with the Interactive Speakeasy Chat and Date Service and provided an alternative number for gay callers. The correct number for students to call is 0891 338260. The award is supported by Clerical and Medical, as well as by the Guardian and Observer.

A LEADER headed, After Israel's soundbites, Page 17, April 21, referred to letters from Mr Arafat to "the late Shimon Peres". Mr Peres is, of course, alive, unlike Mr Rabin to whom the leader writer meant to refer. Apologies.

IN A REVIEW on page 10, G2, April 21, of the work of the artist, Chris Ofili, we said, "Along with the wrap-around shades and his 1973 lime-green Ford Capri, and the retro, one-size-fits-all Angela Carter Afro wig, elephant doo-doo is his trademark, a pungent calling card." We should have said Angela Davis (the African-American civil rights activist) not Angela Carter (the novelist).

IN THE obituary of Joan Heal, Page 13, April 27, we referred to the show "which turned her into a star" as *Grab Me a Gondolier*. Not quite. It should have read, *Grab Me a Gondola*.

A PHOTOGRAPH accompanying the television programmes on Page 113 of some editions of The Guide, April 25-May 1, showed not Cecil Parker as the caption said, but Sir Donald Wolfit.

AN ITEM about the band Gomez on Page 19, Friday Review, April 24, said that its vocalist, Ben Ottewell came from Bath. Matlock Bath, in Derbyshire, that should have been.

A QUOTATION was slightly mangled in the Guardian/Penguin Quiz, Page XII of our supplement for World Book Day, April 23. His "Wee, sleeket, cow'rin', tim'rous beastie" became "sleckit" and "sae" as in "need na start away sae hasty" became "she". We can't identify the poet here because the competition doesn't close until May 14.

*It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk*

## A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Just inside the gate of the new cherry orchard a young Burcombe, seven feet high, is wreathed in bedraggled blossom. Uphill from the sheltering blackthorn and holly hedge, three scarecrows and plastic bags on long canes sway and flap, warning off jackdaws and pigeons which perch on and break fragile shoots. Most of the 150 trees were grafted in 1996 and 1997 ,on to wild cherry seedlings planted five years ago. Now, tall stick-like trunks sprout slender, forked branches, emerging into leaf. Some have flower buds but it will be another 10 to 20 years before trees assume distinctive shapes, form arches of flowering boughs and produce quantities of sweet, black cherries. Those grafted early this year have junctions of scion and rootstock neatly sealed with plastic tape. Traditional growers used to smother the grafts with clay, keeping it damp with moss, tied on with raffia. Further protection from cold, sapping wind was provided by straw bound with sacking.

Set on a north slope, this new orchard of Tamar cherries faces Kit Hill and Hingston Down. Afforested daffodil fields and polythene tunnels across the stream have a warmer aspect but here, as in Towell's old, established orchard, a mile away, above Morden mill, blossom will be held back, escaping damage from late frosts. The orchard contains 20 named varieties, once spread along the valley. Most trees, from which original graftwood was collected, have since died of old age, rotted or been felled and used for firewood. A few giants survive and, in this wet April, blossom is staggered and sparse. Much is still in bud and, beneath grey clouds, lacks the impact of masses of almond-scented blooms, white drifts against clear blue sky.

*VIRGINIA SPIERS*

## Birthdays

**Andre Agassi**, tennis player, 28; **Frank Auerbach**, painter, 67; **Jonah Barrington**, squash player, 57; **Dean Bell**, rugby league player, 36; **Lady (Lynda) Chalker**, former Conservative minister, 56; **Paul Clarke**, Labour MP, 41; **Daniel Day-Lewis**, actor, 41; **Ruth Deech**, principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 55; **Lieut-Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere**, Gulf war British commander, 64; **Anita Dobson**, actress, 49; **Deryck Guyler**, actor and comedian, 84; **Celeste Holm**, actress, 79; **Zizi Jeanmaire**, dancer, 74; **Elizabeth Lawson, QC**, 51; **Irvin Kershner**, film director, 75; **Zubin Mehta**, conductor, 62; **Johnny Miller**, golfer, 51; **Michelle Pfeiffer**, actress, 40; **Lord (Jacob) Rothschild**, merchant banker, 62; **Jeremy Thorpe**, former leader, Liberal Party, 69; **Phil Tufnell**, cricketer, 32; **Jill Paton Walsh**, children's writer, 61; **Prof Heinz Wolff**, bio-engineer, 70.

## Death Notices

HAWKINGS. 26th April, suddenly at home of Sedgefield House, Sedgefield. Joyce Christine Mary, beloved wife of the late Dr. John Hawkings, deeply loved mother of Julian and the late Judith, also loving sister of Barbara. Funeral Tuesday 5th May, would friends kindly meet for service in St. Edmund's Church at 12.30pm, followed by interment at Sedgefield Cemetery.

PHILLPOTT. Netherwinon. Sadly as the result of an accident, on 24th April, Jonathan Peter, dearly loved son of Valerie and Roger Vaughan and brother to James, Adam, Nick, Tom, Ellie and Anna. Service to celebrate Jonathan's life at St. Giles Church, Netherwinton, on Friday May 1st at 3.30 pm followed by interment.

ROBERTS. Kathleen Marie Anne, December 8th 1913 to April 22nd 1998, sadly missed. Funeral service to be held on Friday May 1st at 2 pm at St. Cadoc's Church, Caerleon. Enquiries and flowers to Tovey Brothers Undertakers, 11 Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent. Telephone 01633 206 848.

## In Memoriam

BURKE. (N4o Leeder) Rosemary, treasured memories of my dearly beloved daughter. 24.4.47 - 28.4.94. Mary.

EDELMAN. Till. A memorial meeting and celebration of Till's life for family and friends will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at 7pm in The Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX. All welcome.

FERNLEY. Denise, remembered and missed terribly every day, especially on her birthday, 29th April 1949, when the life of a beautiful person began.

## Births

RICKMAN. On April 27th 1998 to Christy (née Staverton) and John, a son, George Gato David. A brother for Josiah.

■ To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل



**Big notes will make euro the currency for criminals, page 12**

**Tomorrow: Birmingham Midshires chiefs quizzed**

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

*Finance* **Guardian**

# Bus firms face court

**Dan Atkinson and Keith Harper**

ALLEGATIONS of price-rigging and secret deals to carve up routes by 10 bus firms are to go before the restrictive practices court after a two-year investigation by the Office of Fair Trading. The court will be asked to rule the deals against the public interest and to prohibit them.

OFT director-general John Bridgeman said: "The suspected secret arrangements among these companies are likely to have resulted in higher fares".

Among those claimed to be victims were children taking off-peak journeys in Liverpool and the Wirral.

The biggest company in the alleged cartel — Merseyside Transport Limited — has already effectively admitted certain of the allegations, and has said it is willing to promise the court that these agreements will cease.

MTL, which is owned by 2,000 bus workers, has postponed a flotation because of the OFT's investigation and the forthcoming transport white paper.

The market-fixing claimed by the OFT is said to have taken place in Merseyside and Greater Manchester from 1995 onwards. The OFT added that it was impossible to put a figure on the extra fares paid by people in the region or to calculate the exent to which they were offered poorer services because of the absence of competition.

A tip-off to the OFT's new cartels task force triggered the inquiry in 1995. The task force was set up to gather information on cartel operations and has a dedicated telephone hot-line.

It is open to those brought before the restrictive practices court both to deny that such agreements exist or to argue that the court ought to accept them as being in the public interest.

Among the agreements cited by the OFT are:

☐ Deals in 1995 involving Merseyside Transport with Greater Manchester Buses North and Greater Manchester Buses South, under which the Merseyside firm agreed to pull out of Manchester and the Manchester operators to quit Merseyside;

☐ Separate deals involving Merseyside Transport with each of South Lancashire Transport, David Tanner Travel and Nip-On Transport at the end of 1995 and beginning of 1996, whereby the Merseyside operator pulled out of certain St Helens routes in return for the others pulling out of other routes;

☐ A deal at the end of 1995 between Merseyside Transport and North Western Road Car Company, under which both prices and service frequencies were carved up;

☐ A series of agreements in 1996, among Merseyside Transport, North Western Road Car, C&M Travel, South Lancashire Transport and Halton Borough Transport relating to fares for children's off-peak journeys in the Liverpool area and to two and three-mile commercial services. Another agreement between the Merseyside operator and PMT covered children's off-peak fares.

The move is the latest in a series of OFT investigations into the industry, which was privatised in the mid-1980s. These have involved both price-fixing or so-called predatory pricing aimed at driving competitors off the road.

Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade, is planning legal changes allowing Mr Bridgeman to fine companies. But the current case would be heard under existing law, which provides for penalties only on repeat offences.

## Shareholders told chief executive's £2.4m pay is worth every penny

# SB forced to defend Leschly's pay to investors

**Julia Finch**

SMITHKLINE Beecham chairman Sir Peter Walters yesterday told shareholders his chief executive, Jan Leschly, was worth every penny of his £2.4 million annual pay package and £60 million of share options.

"We pay for performance," he explained to 750 investors who attended the drug group's annual meeting at London's Barbican. "The total emoluments of all our executives are linked to what they achieve — and they are very demanding targets."

He said he would not provide an excuse for Mr Leschly's record-breaking pay deal. "I am not apologising. It is the world we live in. It is the American system of free enterprise and that is the market we must join."

Sir Peter also heaped blame for the failed merger on Glaxo, for trying to turn the deal into "a takeover without a premium". He cast doubt on their rival's explanation of why the deal had collapsed. "A number of statements" reportedly made by Glaxo chairman Sir Richard Sykes "are not consistent with Glaxo Wellcome's actions at the time," he said.

Chairman Sir Peter Walters

SmithKline's agm came two days after Sir Richard signalled he had not yet given up hope that the £100 billion merger could still go ahead, but that "circumstances would have to change", implying that Mr Leschly would have to be removed from SB.

Mr Leschly told shareholders that SmithKline had a bright future as an independent company. "Remember, Glaxo called us, we didn't call them," he told the meeting.

Nevertheless he was "disappointed" that the merger fell through — as it could have produced "a great company". He ruled out, however, a merger with Zeneca, saying it was too expensive.

Not all SmithKline shareholders were impressed with their board's explanations, however. "The chief executive says he is disappointed. He damn well ought to be. Some £13 billion was lost when this merger failed and that is a disgrace," one told the directors.

Another pleaded with Mr Leschly: "Could you please take a little less money?"

Sir Peter, however, had clearly prepared for an attack on Mr Leschly's pay and displayed a slide showing that in the league table of international drug company bosses, his chief executive ranked eighth. Sir Richard Sykes was ranked 12th.

Another shareholder said Mr Leschly's huge rewards were unjust when compared to the pensions paid to some ex-employees. He described two former Beecham workers, with 17 and 22 years service and paid-up pensions, who received £7 and £11 a week respectively. "I know it is legal," he said, "but I think it is despicable." The company said it would look at the matter.

AMERICA'S C200 committee of high-powered and highly-paid top businesswomen is to launch a UK branch.

The Committee, which has 370 members, has invited 40 of Britain's "most powerful and successful businesswomen" to an inaugural meeting at the London Business School tomorrow where Christie Hefner (above), the chief executive of Playboy Enterprises, best known for its raunchy centrefolds and Bunny Girls, will speak.

US businesswomen are way ahead of their UK counterparts. One in ten top US executives are now women.

Those at the London launch will be corporate executives managing divisions with a turnover of at least £18 million or entrepreneurs whose businesses generate annual revenue of at least £6 million.

Based in Chicago, C200 was founded 15 years ago and aims to provide women with the equivalent of the traditional "old boys" network, including inspiration and support.

PHOTOGRAPH: WARREN JOHNSON

# Tough times for the rich

**Dan Atkinson**

IT WAS the year the Asian economic meltdown began, the year thousands of jobs were lost across continental Europe, the year of rising interest rates in Britain and belt-tightening from Spain to eastern Germany in preparation for monetary union.

Yes, 1997 spelled toil and trouble for all those engaged in the world economy.

Well, for not quite all. For perhaps eight million people — about 0.1 per cent of the human race — 1997 was a year of wine and roses. Or rather, another year of wine and roses. In 1996, they had to struggle along with personal wealth totalling a measly $16.53 trillion — that is almost £10 thousand billion. In 1997 — despite the economic and market turmoil — this increased to a respectable $17.4 trillion.

That's $17,400,000,000,000, or — in sterling — about £1,300,000 a head. Clubbing together, they could fund HM Government for 34 years.

Investment bank Merrill Lynch, with management consultant Gemini, has been watching the world's dollar millionaires, now known as "high net worth individuals" (HNWIs) — a pool of between six and eight million people who can "show" at least $1 million in liquid assets.

The Merrill-Gemini 1998 World Wealth Report shows that not only are the rich getting richer, they are set to get richer still. In Europe, for example, "the market will be further boosted by inheritance money and equity release from the businesses of European entrepreneurs."

Already, Europeans and North Americans account for 59 per cent of HNWIs. But the Asians are shrugging off a $300 billion drop in the value of their wealth and are expected to account for more than a fifth of HNWIs by the millennium. Latin Americans will account for 16 per cent, and Africans for 2 per cent.

But the HNWIs seem discontented with their lot; in Europe they seek "higher yields from investment assets" and Japanese millionaires "will continue to demand higher-performing repositories for their wealth".

Some people are never satisfied.

**Notebook**

# Trade blow takes toll of Brown plan

**Alex Brummer**

THE March trade figure is the most ominous piece of economic data since Labour came to power a year ago. It was inevitable that the long period of an overvalued pound together with the collapse of the East Asian economies would eventually take their toll both on the trade balance and output, but the downward adjustment threatens to be much more sudden than the Treasury expected.

If this were not enough, the message from exporters, as surveyed by the CBI, is equally disastrous, showing optimism among exporters falling to an 18-year low; a downturn only matched by overall business confidence.

As always, any month's figures can give a false reading. Nevertheless, the underlying picture for trade in goods has, in any case, been worsening. In February the deficit was £2.2 billion, which is more than two times worse than in January.

Normally it can be expected that the booming services sector will repair some of the damage. But the overall trade balance, including services, shows an even worse picture, with the deficit more than tripling from £561 million to £1.7 billion. All this is in line with the worsening of the current account predicted by the IMF, which forecast a deficit of $16 billion (£9.8 billion) this year.

So what will be the consequences of this? In the real economy of growth and job expectations for output, employment and investment will need to be revised down sharply and growth rates slashed. This will be a particular blow to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, since it could get between him and his Welfare to Work programme; hence his decision to try to make sectors of the economy recession-proof.

The traditional means of dealing with swelling trade deficits is to squeeze consumption, to slow imports and create more room for the export sector. That squeeze already has taken place, as a result of action by the Bank of England, but, in effect, has compounded problems by pushing up the pound when it might have been weakening.

However, the downward pressure on the economy is now so pronounced that the monetary policy committee will have few excuses to tighten. Sterling's trend may even be downwards.

### Bus wars

BACK in the mid-1980s, when water and power privatisation were mere gleams in a think-tanker's eye, when there was no Connex South Central and when even the world's favourite airline belonged to the Government, Britain's provincial bus services were privatised.

Given the dismal record since then of market-rigging and predatory pricing, it is difficult to see why anybody bothered to do so. Hardly a year has gone by without an Office of Fair Trading probe into uncompetitive behaviour by the heirs of Blakey, Butler and others from On the Buses. To be fair, some of the inquiries have turned up nothing. But far too many have uncovered malpractice.

It appears sometimes that our new breed of bus tycoons seems to divide its working hours equally between trying to drive each other off the road with predatory fares and cosying up to carve up routes and prices. Perhaps they are trying to reconstruct those once-despised public bodies, the passenger-transport executives — with appropriate private-sector rewards for managers, naturally.

Yesterday's OFT reference of a number of alleged market-rigging deals (none proved as yet) to the Restrictive Practices Court may seem merely the latest depressing chapter in the OFT's attempts to referee the bus types.

In fact, it ought to be one of the last of its kind — whatever the outcome. Once the Competition Bill passes into law, the OFT will be able to levy the sort of penalty fares beloved of public-transport operators — up to 10 per cent of turnover — in cases of anti-competitive behaviour.

That will make even Private Bus think twice.

### Biotech rush

IT LOOKS as if British Biotech is finally facing up to its serious situation as a result of the allegations made by its estranged head of clinical research, Andrew Millar.

With the company's share price under pressure and institutional shareholders increasingly wary of a company which has lost a whole layer of top management in a relatively short time, it is now promising to complete its rebuttal of Dr Millar's allegations by May 15 — when it plays host to investors on its research and development day.

Although much of what Dr Millar has had to say is worrying and the alleged share dealings of chief executive Keith McCullagh are no doubt worth a closer look, not all of it makes sense.

His call for an interim review of data relating to large scale trials of Zacutex, the drug being developed against acute pancreatitis, is not seen as the best way forward by big shareholders. It could slow development of the drug, require the trials to be rebased and be costly when cash is running short.

What British Biotech and Mr McCullagh need to do is convince investors that their procedures are watertight and their management is up to the job of running a research-based public company. Otherwise they will be swallowed, like Fisons, in the blink of an eye.

# Sales leap at BSE-test stores

**Roger Cowe**

KITEMARK organisation the British Standards Institution took its first step yesterday towards becoming a multinational public company.

After gaining the privy council's approval for crucial changes in its royal charter, the BSI borrowed £25 million to help finance the £36.5 million acquisition of international inspection and testing company Inspectorate.

Under the original charter, granted in 1929, the BSI was not allowed to either borrow or make acquisitions. But it has developed commercial activities implementing quality standards and testing and certifying products ranging from kettles to condoms. These moneymaking ventures now bring in three times as much money as new standards for industry.

Yesterday's deal will double the size of the BSI's commercial operations, but chief executive Keith Tozzi yesterday said this was still not big enough to be internationally competitive. He set a target of two more acquisitons over the next year, which is likely to involve BSI converting to a public company so that shares can be used to finance the purchases.

"We need to triple our size," he said. "It is quite clear that we have to decide how we are going to finance expansion. Flotation is a possibility, but we have not made a decision on that yet."

## News in brief

### Buysse takes over at Vickers

Paul Buysse, who received a £1.14 million compensation package when he quit BTR earlier this year, has been appointed chief executive of Vickers, the defence and motor group currently selling its Rolls-Royce and Bentley luxury car business.

He takes over from Sir Colin Chandler, who remains chairman of Vickers.

The appointment was announced on the eve of the Vickers agm, which is expected to be a rowdy affair with Rolls-Royce car enthusiasts complaining about the car firm's imminent sale to a German group.

### Selfridges suffers

Selfridges and Freemans, which will be floated off as separate companies later this year, were among Sears' subsidiaries which reported lower profits yesterday. Operating profit at Selfridges fell by a third to £23 million.

The result from the flagship store on London's Oxford Street was lower largely as a result of poor Christmas trading. Sales continue to trail behind last year's figures.

### Accountants link-up

European Union antitrust regulators will clear the merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand LLP after representatives from the 15 EU countries voted in favour, a spokesman said yesterday.

Friday's majority vote by a committee of national competition officials removed the last hurdle to EU approval for creation of the world's biggest accounting firm.

# Kitemark to fly in the world market

## Standards agency nurses business ambitions, reports ROGER COWE

KITEMARK organisation the British Standards Institution took its first step yesterday towards becoming a multinational public company.

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"We need to triple our size," he said. "I would be very disappointed if, over the next 12 months, we hadn't picked up another two businesses. It is quite clear that we have to decide how we are going to finance expansion. Flotation is a possibility, but we have not made a decision on that yet."

Neither managers nor the BSI's 22,000 corporate members would be in line for windfall gains on flotation.

The organisation was established by the engineering profession in 1901 to develop common standards — initially for the railways.

But it is a "charter body" with no shareholders, so the float's proceeds would go straight to the BSI's coffers.

Mr Tozzi, a former technical director of Southern Water, dismisses those critics who argue that greater commercialisation will endanger the basic task of standard-setting. He cited a 97 per cent majority at this year's members' meeting in favour of such a strategy.

He wants additional funds to buy businesses in North America and Asia.

"We find increasingly that our competitors are between two and three times our size and that our customers are multinationals. Many of them want to buy quality services around the world from a single supplier.

"Inspectorate is a very important acquisition because it moves us from being solely a British-based business to one that really has with global opportunity. But we need further activities in the Americas and China or Japan."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Australia 2.53 | Germany 2.9161 | Malaysia 6.28 | Singapore 2.61 |
| Austria 20.48 | Greece 518.96 | Malta 0.6365 | South Africa 8.22 |
| Belgium 60.13 | Hong Kong 12.60 | Netherlands 3.2622 | Spain 245.59 |
| Canada 2.349 | India 66.37 | New Zealand 2.95 | Sweden 12.84 |
| Cyprus 0.8561 | Ireland 1.1535 | Norway 12.13 | Switzerland 2.42 |
| Denmark 11.18 | Israel 6.17 | Portugal 298.34 | Turkey 397,090 |
| Finland 8.92 | Italy 2,899 | Saudi Arabia 6.17 | USA 1.6368 |
| France 9.74 | | | |

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and mdollar)

# Barclays hit by pension protest

PENSIONERS demonstrated outside Barclays Bank's annual meeting in Westminster yesterday, calling for an end to a practice known as "pensions clawback", *writes Rupert Jones.*

Almost half of the UK's private employers' final salary pension schemes deduct some or all of the basic state pension allowance, according to the unions co-ordinating the campaign.

More than 2.5 million pensioners have an average of £3,300 a year "grabbed back" by their former employers, claims banking union Unifi, which is calling for the practice to be made illegal. Barclays is one of many employers to have benefited, it claimed.

Employers argue that as they pay National Insurance as well as contributions into the pension fund, they are in effect paying for two pensions. Barclays said it limits the deduction to a maximum of 50 per cent of the basic state pension.

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Underworld may target the euro

# Big notes drugs fear

Mark Atkinson in Paris

HIGH-denomination euro banknotes may have to be rationed to prevent them falling into the hands of Latin American drug dealers and the Russian mafia and being used in money laundering operations, Belgium's Finance Minister, Philippe Maystadt, warned yesterday.

Fears have been expressed that the euro could quickly supercede the US dollar as the criminal underworld's currency of choice because of the ease with which it will be able to be carried across borders.

Whereas $1 million in hundred-dollar banknotes, the highest denomination printed, would fill a large suitcase, $1 million in 500-euro notes could perhaps be stashed in a large handbag.

Speaking after a meeting of the Financial Action Task Force, the world's leading anti-money laundering authority, Mr Maystadt, who is its chairman, said the usual steps would be taken to prevent criminals converting national currencies into euros when the notes and coins begin circulating in 2002. These included banks notifying the authorities they were suspicious about the legality of a transaction.

Mr Maystadt said that the European Central Bank, which will run the euro, may decide to restrict the volume of high denomination notes it prints.

"Most European governments are attentive to avoid facilitation of money laundering," Mr Maystadt said. "We will keep an eye on this and, if necessary, in due time we will take the measures to combat this new development if it takes place."

Mr Maystadt said the final decision on the quantity of high-denomination euro banknotes to be printed rested with the ECB, which is meant to be ringfenced from political interference by national governments.

He said, however, that the ECB would not operate in a vacuum and that it would co-operate with other institutions, such as the FATF.

Yesterday's meeting of the FATF, which took place in Paris at the annual two-day ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, was the second since it was formed in 1989.

Its 28 members include most members of the OECD.

Mr Maystadt said the battle against money laundering was a continuous process, with the authorities racing to keep up with techniques used by criminals.

In addition to the opportunities presented by the arrival of the euro, the FATF has identified the Internet as another method of laundering dirty money.

But the FATF President, Jean Spreutels, said the authorities had not yet detected it being used in this way. "The counter measures are preceding the threat itself," he said.

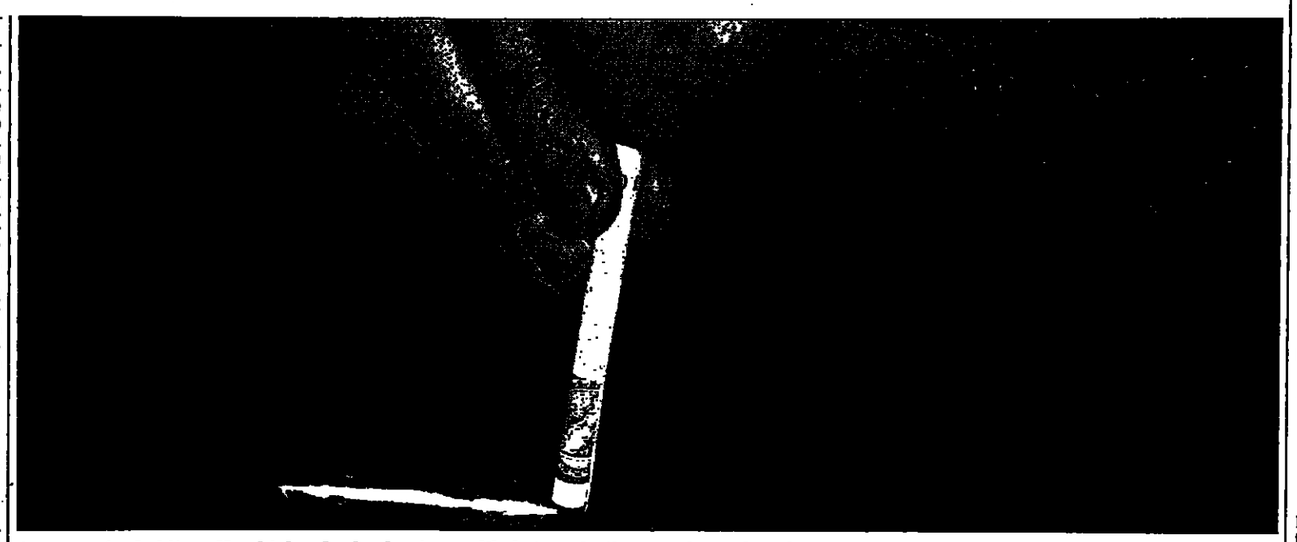
Mr Maystadt said several ministers at the meeting had mentioned money laundering operations in central and eastern Europe and Mr Spreutels identified Africa as a problem zone.

● THE OECD agreed yesterday agreed not to lower taxes to draw capital away from other countries, and to rewrite tax treaties with countries that act as tax havens.

However, the scope of the new accord was weakened when Luxembourg and Switzerland, the two OECD members most often accused of using tax policies to lure investment, said they would not sign it.

They both objected to language in the accord identifying bank secrecy as a source of "harmful tax competition".

The accord is not binding. It works, said Jeffrey Owen, head of the OECD's fiscal division, on the principle of "peer pressure".



An expensive habit . . . New high-value banknotes are likely to make the euro the preferred currency for drug dealers PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID HOFFMAN

# Bargain hunters eye up the tigers

**MARK MILNER and JULIA FINCH see how crisis can beget opportunity**

IT WAS dubbed the Asian contagion. Meltdown in the region's financial markets sent shock waves round the world. From Bangkok to Seoul, officials from the International Monetary Fund popped up at regular intervals to slap another multi-billion dollar strip of financial band-aid on a haemorrhaging financial system.

True to management-speak, however, for some last year's crisis is threatening to turn into this year's opportunity.

As a measure of stability returns to Asia's financial markets and the prospect of a further downturn recedes (though it has by no means disappeared), the bargain hunters are emerging.

"People have been studying the corporate sector [in the region] for the last six months, looking for deals which are cheap and where there is a reasonable outlook," says Bernard Godement, chief macroeconomist at Daiwa Institute of Research in London.

**Many Asian companies will be looking for partners**

It is not just a question of money. International investors get a warmer reception than in the past. As Bernard Eschweiler, an analyst at investment bank JP Morgan, noted in a recent circular: "With governments' fiscal resources limited and private domestic resources largely depressed, foreign capital will have to play a key role in funding the recapitalisation of banks and buying distressed assets."

To that end, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, the region's governments have been lifting restrictions on foreign ownership.

Thailand, where the crisis surfaced last summer, is already coming under the spotlight. Dutch bank ABN AMRO is buying 75 per cent of Thailand's Bank of Asia; the Bank of Nova Scotia is taking over Nakornthon Bank. Yesterday, Standard Chartered Bank's chairman, Patrick Gillam, was quoted in a Thai newspaper as saying his bank was interested in building up its retail presence in the country. The bank has made little secret it is hoping to take advantage of the greater liberalisation on foreign investment to increase its already extensive presence in the region.

Nor is it only the financial sector which is attracting attention. Ladbroke chief executive Peter George believes the economic turmoil in the Far East will give Ladbroke, which owns the Hilton hotel chain outside the US, a chance to pick up bargains.

"There are opportunities in Asia that weren't there before," he said recently. "There are a lot of forced sellers, of both individual properties and small hotel companies."

Germany's BASF spent $600 million (£360 million) buying Daesang Group of South Korea's animal feed additives division. Southern Electric splashed out $2.29 billion on Consolidated Electric Power Asia.

Foreign corporates may not need to go shopping. Deals may well come to them. "Many [Asian] companies will be looking for partners, especially as they find it difficult to get finance from their usual lenders," says Mr Godement.

Not that anyone should get too excited. Reports of the death of Asian capitalism are likely to prove as exaggerated as earlier suggestions of the invincibility of the Asian tigers. Acquisitions of Asian companies accounted for just 5 per cent of the global takeover total last year.

The crisis may have pushed the door to foreign investment in corporate Asia further open; that does not of itself convert the region into a risk-free buyers' market.

**Foreign ownership limits**

| | General | Financial sector |
|---|---|---|
| Indonesia | Generally allowed, except a few | No limits |
| Japan | No limits | No limits |
| Malaysia | 30% [illegible] 49% [illegible] | [illegible] |
| South Korea | 55% for stocks, to be lifted by the end of 1998 | 10%, 25%-33% with special permission |
| Thailand | 100% for 10 years but [illegible] | 100% for 10 years [illegible] |

# 'Five years to judge' whether UK should join

Michael White and Charlotte Denny

THE Government's "wait and see" policy on joining the single currency came under attack yesterday when an influential parliamentary committee said it would be impossible to judge whether Britain should join for at least five years.

The report from the Treasury select committee casts doubts on the Government's timetable for a referendum early in the next parliament.

But while united in casting doubts on the Government's timetable, the select committee is hopelessly divided on whether UK membership is a good idea. It says it will be impossible to judge whether joining would meet the five economic tests laid down by the Chancellor until at least the year 2003.

The hurdles which the Gordon Brown has set before Britain can join include sustainable convergence between Britain and the economies of a single currency; flexibility to cope with economic change; the effect on investment; the impact on the City and whether it is good for employment.

While the committee endorses Mr Brown's tests, it says the Treasury should make it clearer in which areas economic convergence would be sought.

In the event that Britain decides to join, the committee says the Government should publish a national changeover plan to address problems.

The committee also put the Chancellor under pressure for this weekend's meeting of EU heads of state to solve the row between potential EMU members over who should head the body which will set single currency interest rates.

France and Germany are at loggerheads over who will run the European Central Bank, and the committee warns Britain "must ensure that the choice of participants and any compromise reached on the Presidency of the ECB are credible and consistent with the [Maastricht] Treaty's requirements".

While the report was endorsed unanimously, the committee failed to paper over fundamental divisions about UK membership.

At a boistrous press conference, three of the four Tory MPs on the committee made plain their scepticism, Sir Teddy Taylor, saying: "Because of our disagreements we are saying nothing about nothing." Labour and Liberal Democrats, including left-winger Brian Sedgemore, expressed varying degrees of enthusiasm.

# New coins just the job for Italy's Romeos

THE euro may be unloved and unwanted in Britain but in Italy, straining at the leash to be admitted to the first wave at this weekend's summit, it is bound to be a hit in one unexpected quarter — public toilets, *writes David Gow*

Few of these boast condom slot-machines because the biggest Italian coin, the 500 lire piece, is worth just about the equivalent of 17p. In Britain, with its pound coins worth nearly 3000 lire, there are six times as many condom dispensers.

But, according to Hatu-Ico Commerciale SpA, a condom-maker, the euro will change all that when it replaces national currencies from January 2002.

The two-euro coin, worth 4000 lire or around £1.30 at today's exchange rates, will boost the company's slot-machine trade substantially — with more people able to make purchases before the machines are full — as well as bringing lower prices.

It will be a far cry from the days of mega-inflation in Italy, where gaming slot-machines like one-armed bandits are banned. Then the coins were of such little (and rapidly declining) value shops would give telephone tokens or even sweets as change.

# Investment talks falter

Mark Atkinson in Paris

WESTERN governments yesterday cobbled together a face-saving arrangement to keep alive controversial plans for a set of binding international rules on investment. There were, however, varying interpretations of what had been decided — and why.

After failing to meet this month's deadline to sign the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), ministers from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development agreed that the discussions should undergo "a period of assessment and consultation" before resuming formally in October.

France's junior European minister Pierre Moscovici, backed by Canada, claimed that this amounted to a suspension of the talks. He is under pressure to protect the French film industry from being swamped by Hollywood blockbusters.

But OECD Secretary-General Donald Johnston insisted: "It's not really a delay." He said governments would be able to use the next six months to persuade politicians, non-governmental organisations and the public of the importance of the MAI.

Discussions on the MAI began in 1995 with the aim of drawing up a set of rules that would protect foreign investors from discrimination by national governments.

But they have been bogged down by disagreements over, for example, whether or not to include tough environmental or labour protection clauses.

France has spearheaded calls for exemptions and the MAI has also run into trouble in the United States where a coalition of trade unionists and environmentalists on the left and anti-free traders on the right, could upset its passage through Congress and where legislation governing firms which trade with Cuba may cause difficulties.

# Beckett warns of euro fall-out

DAVID GOW reports on DTI concerns that UK business is ignoring monetary union

TRADE and industry secretary Margaret Beckett yesterday warned British companies that the arrival of the euro next year could swiftly expose their lack of competitiveness and efficiency, even though Britain will remain outside the single currency.

Amid fresh evidence that the majority of companies have done nothing to prepare for economic and monetary union, Mrs Beckett will next week spearhead a joint drive by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Treasury to get British business ready for the single currency's impact from its launch-date of January 1 next year.

Mrs Beckett said: "The euro will expose very clearly those companies which are genuinely competitive, efficient and cost-effective and those which are not, but have previously been shielded by movements in exchange rates."

The Government says productivity levels in British firms are up to 40 per cent behind those of their international rivals, and this gap will be highlighted by the euro.

Multinationals such as car firms have already indicated they will begin pay negotiations in the euro, raising union fears that greater clarity about costs could hasten plant closures and job cuts.

Mrs Beckett's comments came as a survey by the Bank of Ireland found that only 7 per cent of UK firms had done anything to prepare for EMU, with 51 per cent believing it will have little impact. Business people, at 29 per cent, were only slightly more aware of the euro than the public, at 18 per cent.

The survey found that 84 per cent of respondants could not name the start date of monetary union, 81 per cent could not name the single currency and 25 per cent were unable to name a single participating country.

هكذا من الاصل

Racing

# Evry opens its doors for Sheikh

Chris Hawkins

SHEIKH MOHAMMED was yesterday given the go ahead by the French racing authorities to lease Evry racecourse as a training centre for more than 100 two-year-olds next season.

At a meeting of the administration committee of France Galop, the French Jockey Club, the voting was 15 to 1 in favour of granting the Sheikh a five-year lease at a cost of 4 million francs per annum (roughly £400,000).

On top of that sum, VAT must be paid at 20.6 per cent and the whole deal will be index linked so the Sheikh's horses will have to win plenty of prizemoney to make the operation viable.

Sheikh Mohammed has been given an option for a further five years, followed by a three-year option, and has been asked to ensure that the course and facilities are maintained to a high standard. Simon Crisford, racing manager to the Sheikh's Godolphin arm, has given Cape Verdi a big vote of confidence for Sunday's Sagitta 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket.

Currently 5-2 favourite for the first fillies' Classic, Cape Verdi is bred to be more effective at middle distances — she is by the French Derby winner Caerleon out of a mare by the Arc winner Sagace — but Crisford has no doubt she has enough speed.

"That's not a problem," he said. "She has shown us plenty and you find, generally speaking, that if an animal is going to be top class at a mile and a half they have a lot of speed as well."

Cape Verdi, who has been clocking times in her work to match those of the great filly Balanchine, who was short-headed in the Guineas before winning the Oaks and Irish Derby, will not be doing much in the lead-up to the race after flying in on Monday.

"All the horses will be taking it easy and will just have a canter tomorrow morning to stretch their legs — they are very fit and do not need any more serious work," said Crisford, who added that a decision about Embassy's participation in the 1,000 will be made tomorrow. A decision will also be made then about which of three other entries will go to post with Central Park in the 2,000.

None of the Godolphin horses has yet been weighed to see how much they lost during the flight, but they have shown no signs of stress.

"They all seem to have taken the flight well, but it's much easier for horses to travel from hot to cold rather than the other way round — they adapt very quickly," explained Crisford.

John Reid has been handed the plumb ride aboard Tamarisk in the 2,000 Guineas. Roger Charlton moved swiftly yesterday to book the Ulsterman after announcing that the colt would run at Newmarket if ground conditions were suitable.

Walter Swinburn, due to ride Exclusive for Michael Stoute in the 1,000 Guineas, was in double form at Bath, winning on Peak Path and Speed On.

Stoute's Peak Path is entered in the Derby, but hardly looked up to that standard when scraping home by a neck in the maiden stakes.

On the first day of the Punchestown Festival, Tony McCoy worked the oracle on His Song, who gained revenge on his Cheltenham conqueror, French Ballerina, in the Country Pride Champion Novices Hurdle.

## Ascot off but Sagaro Stakes saved

THE Ascot Flat meeting today has been abandoned because of waterlogging, but the Group Three Sagaro Stakes will be run at Newmarket on Friday.

Exeter will hold a 7.30 inspection this morning. Nick Ansell, clerk of the course, said yesterday: "We have had nearly eight inches of rain this month, with a third of an inch in just 40 minutes yesterday. "But we are a quick drying course and could certainly have raced today.

"However, more rain is forecast so we have decided to hold a precautionary inspection."

At Plumpton, Paul Deacon, clerk of the course, said: "We are perfectly raceable. The forecast is for sunshine and showers and I expect the going will be soft and heavy in places."

Whip hand . . . John Carroll drives Dispol Clan home in yesterday's Porchester Novice Median Auction Stakes at Nottingham PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SHELTON

Snooker

# White flagging as O'Sullivan goes six ahead

Clive Everton in Sheffield

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN threw cold water on Jimmy White's recently rekindled hopes of winning the World Championship by taking a 7-1 overnight lead in their best-of-25-frames quarter-final at The Crucible Theatre yesterday.

O'Sullivan, winner of four titles this season, exploited his break-making chances fluently whereas White crucially failed to convert two gilt-edged frame-winning opportunities.

Perhaps White was encumbered by the expectations arising from his superb form in eliminating Stephen Hendry and Darren Morgan. Beaten in six world finals, his chances of reaching a seventh now look slim. Six frames is a large gap even with today's two sessions to play.

O'Sullivan, leading 2-1 after breaks of 104 and 85, was left a simple task to make it 3-1 when White, using the rest, missed the last brown of the frame. Another calamity befell White in the sixth frame where, trailing 4-1, he was in with 50, four points ahead and perfectly positioned on the black to clean up the colours. Instead the black wobbled in the jaws of the corner pocket and O'Sullivan was home at 5-1.

A 93 break made it 6-1, whereupon the fates decided to punish White for his earlier transgressions. After potting the black in such a way as to go down the table for yellow and a clearance which would have limited his overnight arrears to four frames, he saw the cue ball trickle into a middle pocket at an unlikely angle to present the frame to O'Sullivan and complete a woeful afternoon.

John Parrott has never quite regained the heights of his 1991 World and UK double, but with nine major titles he shares third place with White on the all-time list, albeit well behind Stephen Hendry's 29 and Steve Davis's 28.

Yesterday he split his first quarter-final session with John Higgins, winner of three titles this season, 4-4. Parrott, 34 next month, is enjoying his television career on A Question of Sport and does not expect to be competing at the top level when he is 40, but he is playing far too well to consider retirement yet.

Matthew Stevens, who also stood level at 4-4 after his opening session against the defending champion Ken Doherty, has great natural ability. So much so that when he was nine his parents invited Terry Griffiths to examine the boy's cueing action and the former world champion told them there was nothing to improve.

He already a top-class potter and break-builder. Although often tactically outmanoeuvred yesterday he recovered from 2-3 to 4-3 before Doherty's 83 made it 4-4.

Mark Williams, winner of the Benson & Hedges Masters in February, snatched the last frame of the afternoon on the black with a 57 clearance to take a 5-3 overnight lead over Peter Ebdon, the runner-up here two years ago.

## Plumpton (N.H.) with form

| | CHRIS HAWKINS | TOP FORM |
|---|---|---|
| 2.10 | — | Sun Alert |
| 2.45 | — | August Twelfth |
| 3.20 | — | Courbaril |
| 3.50 | — | Scobie Girl |
| 4.20 | — | Positive |
| 4.55 | — | Belmore Rock |

Left-handed circuit of 1m1f with 200yds run-in.
Going: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Wadada (3.20) D Burchell, Gwent, 177 miles.
Seven day winners: 4.20 Politho; 4.55 Belmore Rock.
Blinkered first time: 3.50 Native Venture. Visored: None.

**2.10** HOVE FOUR YRS OLD FILLIES' NOVICE HURDLE
2m 1f £2,204 (6 declared)

1 431 Sun Alert (98) M Polglase 11-0 ... R Thornton ●90
2 4605 Certain Surprise (48) M Madgwick 10-7 ... J Goldstein (5) ★ 90
3 P00 Sovereign (68) Mrs C Hicks 10-7 ... M Batchelor (5) —
4 04454 Silkes (18) D O'Brien 10-7 ... P Hide 87
5 552434 Sovereign (98) M Meggarridge 10-7 ... S Curran 82
6 Victoria House (FB3) G Pearce 10-7 ... M Scales (7) —

Betting: 1-2 Sun Alert, 6-1 Silkes, 7-1 Certain Surprise, 8-1 Sovereign, 14-1 Victoria House, 50-1 Intersperum.

FORM GUIDE - Sun Alert: Led 2nd, mistake 3 out, all out, beating Berine Chic 13l at Worcester 2m4f nov hd, 6d. Certain Surprise: Led 3 out until approaching last, 5th of 9, 7l behind Totally Yours at Folkestone 2m1f claim hdl, 6d. Intersperum: Always behind, 10th of 16, well behind Petite Risk at Plumpton 2m1f soft hdl, 6d. Silkes: Faded two out, 4th of 5, 29l behind Kenbosan at Plumpton 2m4f nov hcap hdl, 5ft. Sovereign: Always prominent, mistake 6th, 4th of 10, 7l behind Gray Pastel at Taunton 2m1f nov claim hdl, 6d-Fm. Victoria House: Always behind, 9th of 10, 35l behind Kings Harmony at Lingfield 7f claim, AW.

**2.45** OFFHAM NOVICE CHASE
3m 1f 110yds £2,820 (6 declared)

1 -61341 Barnoswift (16) (CD) M Wilkinson 8-11-9 ... L Lawrence 88
2 5P-115 Chester (58) Mrs L Richards 7-11-9 ... M Richards 87
3 1325P2 August Twelfth (34) (C) D O'Brien 10-11-3 ... P Hide ●90
4 3U0335 Benbulbin (4) J Mullins 8-11-3 ... A Bates (5) ★ 85
5 -FF323 Brook Bee (18) N Gaselee 6-11-3 ... B Lusby 88
6 UPP5P6 Grey Gordon (19) R Curtis 10-11-3 ... J Leach 81

Betting: 2-1 August Twelfth, 5-2 Barnoswift, 11-4 Chester, 9-2 Brook Bee, 25-1 Grey Gordon, 33-1 Benbulbin.

FORM GUIDE - Barnoswift: Made most, beat Fairmondy 28l at Plumpton 3m1f nov hcap ch, 5ft. Chester: Faded 4 out, 5th of 8, 21l behind Callow Star at Plumpton 3m1f nov ch, 6d. August Twelfth: Led until 2 out, 2nd when blundered last, not recover, 2nd of 3, 17l behind Multiplex at Plumpton 2m nov ch, 6d-5ft. Benbulbin: Tailed off from 15th, 5th of 7, 50l behind Tordoff Express at Sandown 3m nov ch, 6d-5ft. Brook Bee: Ran on, 3rd of 11, 8l behind Saxon Duke, with Grey Gordon (gave 10lb) 6th, 18l 2fd, at Exeter 2m7f nov hcap ch, 5ft.

**3.20** APRIL CLAIMING HURDLE
2m 4f £2,009 (9 declared)

1 500006 Courbaril (28) (C) M Pipe 6-12-0 ... C Maude ★ ●89
2 641444 Tickerty's Gill (6) (D) B L Moore 5-11-10 ... M Batchelor (5) ★ 85
3 535362 Hawthorne Glen (7) J Long 11-11-6 ... L Harvey 84
4 F33416 Darbishy (23) (C) J Bridger 10-11-4 ... J Goldstein (5) ★ 83
5 124301 Lanadowne (16) (CD) P Nicholls 10-11-4 ... L Cummins (5) 86
6 3012PP Weather Wise (8) W G M Turner 8-11-4 ... J S Kavanagh 82
7 322510 Wadada (21) (C) (D) D Burchell 7-11-2 ... D J Burchell 85
8 U0F0P0 Well Bank (21) Mrs C Hicks 11-10-12 ... R Bellamy —
9 35-5P3 Unofficial Man (FB) (CD) J Fitch-Hayes 8-10-7 ... Miss H Powell 81

Betting: 7-4 Courbaril, 5-2 Lanadowne, 6-1 Tickerty's Gill, 8-1 Hawthorne Glen, Wadada, 12-1 Darbishy, 16-1 Weather Wise.

FORM GUIDE - Courbaril: Every chance, weakened 2 out, 6th of 17, 25l behind Supreme Charm at Ascot 3m hcap hdl, 6d. Tickerty's Gill: Faded three out, 4th of 11, 28l behind Belmore Rock at Fontwell 2m6f hcap hdl, 5ft. Hawthorne Glen: Ran on, 2nd of 9, 2l behind Positive at Towcester 2m hcap hdl, 5ft. Darbishy: Prominent until 3 out, 6th of 10, 37l behind Stonex at Fontwell 2m2f hcap hdl, 6d. Lanadowne: Led 3rd, beat Little Serena 4l at Chepstow 2m4f claim hdl, Hvy. Weather Wise: Tailed off when pulled up 2 out in race won by Queen's Award at Fontwell 3m3f hcap hdl, 5ft. Wadada: Faded three out, 7th of 10, 24l behind Rosemore Girl at Ludlow 2m5f hcap hdl, 6d. Well Bank: Tailed off, 13th of 15 behind Crunabon Crown at Ludlow 2m soft hcap hdl, 6d. Unofficial Man: Ran on one pace, 3rd of 9, 40l behind Totally Yours at Folkestone 2m1f claim hdl, 6d.

**3.50** WIVELSFIELD GREEN HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f £3,558 (6 declared)

1 3P4325 Foodbroker Star (14) J Gifford 8-12-0 ... L Aspell (3) ★ 89
2 U31330 Early Driver (66) O Sherwood 10-11-13 ... J A McCarthy 84
3 14-P21 Regal Aura (49) (CD) D O'Brien 9-10-13 ... P Hide 87
4 53P02P Native Venture (49) (BF) T Casey 10-10-5 ... M Clarke ★ 83
5 F3F3F1 Scobie Girl (19) (C) J Mullins 8-10-0 ... A Bates (5) ●90
6 45P652 Stage Player (18) (D) Miss C Caine 12-10-0 ... D Leahy 89

Betting: 5-2 Regal Aura, 3-1 Scobie Girl, 4-1 Foodbroker Star, 5-1 Native Venture, 7-1 Early Driver, 8-1 Stage Player.

FORM GUIDE - Foodbroker Star: Weakened 4 out, well behind Kendal Cavalier at Cheltenham 3m2f hcap ch, Hvy. Regal Aura: Early Driver: Always behind, tailed off 7th of 9 behind Pinkerley Place at Ludlow 3m hcap ch, 6d. Regal Aura: Made all, beat Amber Spark 30l at Plumpton 2m5f hcap ch, 5ft. Native Venture: Pulled up 4 out in race won by Regal Aura at Plumpton 2m5f hcap ch, 5ft. Scobie Girl: Led halway, beat Steinghorst Flyer 7l at Plumpton 2m2f sdh ch, 5ft. Stage Player: Led two out until run-in, 2nd of 9, 1l behind Ardenber at Fakenham 2m5f hcap ch, 6d-5ft.

**4.20** NELSON HURST NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f £2,306 (9 declared)

1 -2F212 Fountain Bld (8) R Dean 6-11-10 ... J Goldstein (5) 85
2 355614 Proceed (14) (CD) J Gifford 6-11-8 ... P Hide 88
3 11/F65 Stepaside Boy (16) R Curtis 8-11-4 ... J Leach —
4 0-3004 Super Saffron (16) B Smart 8-11-1 ... R Thornton —
5 0FFP-0 Chancellorsville (108) P Bacon 8-10-10 ... B Lusby ●90
6 4-0F01 Positive (7) Miss C Caine 7-10-8 (7ex) ... M Batchelor (5) 94
7 50005P Adhar (23) J Bridger 6-10-0 ... J A Kavanagh 83
8 00U0 Fountain Villa (87) M Madgwick 5-10-0 ... B Powell 81
9 PF00 Refinancial (23) Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 7-10-0 ... J Culloty —

Betting: 7-4 Proceed, 9-4 Fountain Bld, 4-1 Positive, 8-1 Stepaside Boy, 12-1 Super Saffron, 14-1 Adhar, 25-1 Fountain Villa.

FORM GUIDE - Fountain Bld: Headway 8th, weakened fin, 2nd of 11, 23l behind Belmore Rock at Fontwell 2m6f hcap hdl, 5ft. Proceed: Ran on, 4th of 18, 13l behind Gaspal at Cheltenham 2m nov hcap hdl, Hvy. Stepaside Boy: Never power, 5th of 17, 25l behind Sussex Circle at Exeter 2m3f nov hcl, 5ft. Super Saffron: Led 7th until 3 out, 4th of 6, 33l behind Champion Friend at Leicester 2m4f nov hcl, Hvy. Positive: Led 2 out, beat Hawthorne Glen 2l at Towcester 2m hcap hdl, 5ft. Refinancial: Last until after 3 out, soon weakened, 8th of 15, 26l behind Knief, with Adhar (gave 2lb) pulled up 4 out, at Fontwell 2m6f sdl hcap hdl, 6d.

**4.55** COOKSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)
2m 4f £2,490 (8 declared)

1 102100 Ela Aguil Mou (FB) (D) G L Moore 5-12-0 ... M Batchelor (5) 89
2 31/151 Belmore Rock (8) (Bis ex) M Pipe 11-11-6 ... C Maude 86
3 134014 Tough Act (21) Mrs A Pincet 4-11-5 ... A Procter 85
4 1/050F Volunteer (18) R O'Sullivan 8-11-3 ... R Thornton ★ 86
5 232010 Millennium (8) (CD) T McGovern 8-10-11 ... X Aizpuru (3) 94
6 2-4565 Monsoon (77) P Wilkinson 7-10-0 ... J A Kavanagh 86
7 P30035 Divus Bellis (15) W G M Turner 6-10-0 ... P Hide ★ —
8 -0023P Equity's Darling (9) (D) D O'Brien 6-10-0 ... — —

Betting: 7-4 Belmore Rock, 3-1 Tough Act, 9-2 Ela Aguil Mou, 7-1 Millennium, 12-1 Volunteer, 14-1 Monsoon, 16-1 Divus Bellis, Equity's Darling.

FORM GUIDE - Ela Aguil Mou: Always in the rear, 16th of 17, well behind Supreme Charm at Ascot 3m hcap hdl, 6d. Belmore Rock: Steadily headway 8th, lead 3 out, clear 2 out, stumbled last, easily, beating Fountain Bld 22l, with Volunteer 3rd. Tough Act: Led until 3 out, pulled hdl. Equity's Darling (per 27lb) pulled up 4 out, at Fontwell 2m6f hcap hdl, 5ft. Tough Act: Led until 3 out, pulled hdl. Volunteer: Always prominent, 2nd and every chance when fell 2 out in race won by Spanish at Cheltenham 2m5f hcap hdl, Hvy. Millennium: Prominent until 7th, tailed off when pulled up 4 out in race won by Queen's Award at Fontwell 3m3f hcap hdl, 5ft.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

| Jockeys | 1st | Runs | % | Level St | Trainers | 1st | Runs | % | Level St |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A McCoy | 34 | 96 | 35.4 | +18.42 | M Pipe | 28 | 59 | 47.5 | +22.76 |
| A Maguire | 25 | 105 | 23.8 | -20.08 | B D'Arcy | 10 | 60 | 16.7 | -23.77 |
| D O'Sullivan | 18 | 99 | 18.2 | -8.01 | T McGovern | 9 | 65 | 16.1 | -16.00 |
| B Bridgwater | 17 | 50 | 34 | +36.60 | G L Moore | 8 | 52 | 15.4 | +6.17 |
| M Fitzgerald | 17 | 84 | 20.2 | -0.58 | N Twiston-Davies | 7 | 47 | 12.8 | +27.25 |
| J Kavanagh | 14 | 74 | 18.9 | +41.30 | W Thomas | 6 | 60 | 10.0 | -32.00 |
| R Dunwoody | 13 | 80 | 16.3 | -23.34 | R Curtis | 6 | 67 | 8.96 | -31.38 |

## Cheltenham (N.H.) evening card for amateur riders

| | CHRIS HAWKINS | TOP FORM |
|---|---|---|
| 5.25 | — | Hell Hill |
| 6.00 | — | Tecton Mill |
| 6.35 | — | Holland House |
| 7.10 | — | Blank Cheque (nb) |
| 7.45 | — | Cavalero |
| 8.15 | — | Bussman |

New Course: Oval, left handed circuit of 1m5f with 220yds run-in. Undulating, testing track, uphill for the final half-mile. Stiff fences.
Going: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Last Option (7.10) R Tate, Yorkshire, 195 miles.
Seven day winners: 5.25 Ashmead Rambler; 7.45 Cavalero; 8.15 Warren Boy.
Blinkered first time: 5.25 The Flasher; 6.00 Avostar, Scotoni; 8.15 Prince Nepal. Visored: 6.35 Pin Up Boy.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

**5.25** RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELEWEST MAIDEN HUNTERS' CHASE
2m 5f £1,961 (18 declared)

1 C5-PP1 Ashmead Rambler (7) W Bush 8-12-0 ... S Bush (5) 84
2 U3P3F5 Ballyhannon (16) E Froggatt 9-12-0 ... Miss J Froggatt (7) —
3 2/1-15 Bill Of An Mint (38) C Morlock 10-12-0 ... M Armytage 86
4 UU3P2 Brother Pitu (11) A Taylor 9-12-0 ... M Harris (7) 82
5 1-PP30 Calchakuana (8) (D) A A Dey 8-12-0 ... K Needham (7) 84
6 11/F-P Cedar Square (102) V Dartnall 7-12-0 ... J Jakes (5) 89
7 -FF111 Hell's Hill (16) J Porter 9-12-0 ... B Fenwistal (7) ●90
8 /3-P14 Hobnobber (15) J Docker 11-12-0 ... J Docker (7) ★ 86
9 60-302 J B Lad (16) H Tuck 12-12-0 ... Miss V Roberts (7) 87
10 11 Moor Lane (53) I Balding 6-12-0 ... A Balding (5) 88
11 P-3413 Mr Mad (8) M P Hamer 10-12-0 ... P Hamer (7) 87
12 -23P32 Plucky Painter (10) J Jones 10-12-0 ... A Dalton (7) 85
13 1UP13P Sir George Chelly (11) Mrs S Mullineaux 10-12-0 ... D Barlow (7) —
14 PF1P-1 Theskyrane (16) H Lewis 9-12-0 ... A Wintle (7) 86
15 RR The Flasher (30) P Harries 7-12-0 ... P Chapman (7) ★ 82
16 3120/5 Upton Orbit (11) J Collett 9-12-0 ... M Bimell (3) 84
17 PP4-01 Bel Lane (36) Mrs C Hardinge 9-11-9 ... D Jones (7) 83
18 -22P1P Secret Truth (16) Andrew J Martin 9-11-9 ... A Martin (7) —

Betting: 9-4 Moor Lane, 3-1 Hell's Hill, 8-1 J B Lad, 10-1 Mr Mad, Theskyrane, 14-1 Hobnobber, Bel Lane, Secret Truth.

**6.00** FAUCETS PERRIN & ROWE BATHROOM FITTINGS HUNTERS' CHASE
3m 2f 110yds £4,182 (9 declared)

1 -P1122 Avostar (13) (BF) Mrs C Bailey 11-12-6 ... B Pollock (5) ★ 87
2 3-3111 Stalbridge Bill (13) (CD) J Dabosse 8-12-6 ... Miss A Goschen (7) 88
3 11-111 Tecton Mill (33) Miss V Williams 9-12-6 ... S Durack (3) ●90
4 4P-21U Scone-Toy (26) (C) J Squire 12-12-3 ... Miss L Blackford (7) 86
5 2114-2 Double Thriller (18) R C Wilkins 8-12-0 ... J Tizzard (5) 89
6 34-P32 Fox Pointer (8) (D) Mrs L Evans 13-12-0 ... J Jakes (5) 84
7 P-5552 Kino (22) A Martin 11-12-0 ... A Martin (7) 82
8 4F0366 Scotoni (5) J R Batson 12-12-0 ... S Joynes (7) ★ 83
9 -12221 Joy For Life (21) Mrs B Stronge 7-11-12 ... S Stronge (7) 87

Betting: Scone Tecton Mill, 9-2 Stalbridge Bill, 11-2 Joy For Life, 6-1 Avostar, 12-1 Fox Pointer, 16-1 Double Thriller, 20-1 Scone-Toy.

**6.35** WINNING POST AT CHELTENHAM HUNTERS' CHASE
4m 1f £4,260 (11 declared)

1 621-44 The Malakanna (53) (CD) Mrs C Bailey 12-12-7 ... B Pollock (5) ★ 89
2 3U1226 Holland House (27) (CD) P Chamings 12-12-4 ... C Vigors (5) ●90
3 22/3-4 Albert Blake (16) T R Kinsey 11-12-0 ... G Bonner (7) 81
4 253412 Archer (8) B Lewis 10-12-0 ... M Morris (7) 88
5 216430 Highway Five (11) Lady S Brooke 10-12-0 ... Miss E Jones (7) 81
6 3-3373 Holy Sting (8) J De Giles 9-12-0 ... R Wakley (3) 85
7 0-431P Mekrusylie (31) C Warner 15-12-0 ... J Jukes (5) 83
8 P42212 Orwell Rose (16) J Tulloch 10-12-0 ... S Blackwell (7) 87
9 F1233/ Decoris (38) Miss M Rae 12-12-0 ... D S Jones (7) 82
10 3UP121 Pin Up Boy (10) R Hirons 9-12-0 ... C Stockton (7) ★ 86
11 0-3350 Skiboll (26) J Tuck 14-12-0 ... Miss T Stacey (7) 86

Betting: 6-4 Holland House, 9-4 The Malakanna, 10-1 Orwell Rose, Pin Up Boy, 12-1 Archer, Highway Five, Holy Sting.

**7.10** BOWRING INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTERS' CHASE FINAL
3m 1f 110yds £2,827 (8 declared)

1 1U-111 Last Option (18) (B) R Tate 6-13-0 ... Mrs F Needham (7) 89
2 322113 Alt Weather (10) Mrs C Williamson 12-12-7 ... M Williamson (7) 87
3 -14111 Blank Cheque (18) J J Coates 8-12-7 ... D Coates (7) ●90
4 -FP235 Comet Rollins (16) M Wood 9-12-7 ... S Bush (5) 83
5 342112 Glenbricken (32) N King 12-12-7 ... N King (7) 87
6 1-21P4 Hal's Prince (45) T L Jones 11-12-7 ... A Dalton (7) 84
7 1-4212 Sansula (34) Mrs A Harding 8-12-7 ... G Barfoot-Saunt (7) 88
8 214122 Westerlands Queen (22) R Manners 9-12-2 ... A Charles-Jones (7) 82

Betting: 2-1 Last Option, 11-4 Blank Cheque, 6-1 Glenbricken, Westerlands Queen, 7-1 Sansula, 8-1 Alt Weather, 20-1 Count Bellos, 25-1 Hal's Prince.

**7.45** COLIN NASH MEMORIAL UNITED HUNT CHALLENGE CUP HUNTER CHASE
3m 1f 110yds £2,243 (6 declared)

1 41313/ Blackguard (1425) (CD) L Gracick 12-12-3 ... J Gracick (7) 85
2 111111 Cavalero (7) (D) H Manners 9-12-3 ... A Charles-Jones (7) ●90
3 12-213 Double Silk (30) (CD) (BF) R C Wilkins 14-12-3 ... J Tizzard (5) 89
4 -5153P Mystic Minnie (18) Mrs R Matheson 12-12-3 ... J Jones (7) 85
5 81U33P Rusty Fellow (4) R Stott 8-12-3 ... D Maxwell (7) 83
6 P23124 Doubling Donna (8) S Hughes 12-11-12 ... D Jones (7) 86

Betting: 4-5 Cavalero, 6-4 Double Silk, 10-1 Doubling Donna, 25-1 Rusty Fellow

**8.15** BETTY COLEY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY HUNTERS' CHASE
2m 110yds £2,306 (11 declared)

1 3-F151 Bussman (28) K R Pearce 9-12-7 ... D Jones (7) ●90
2 15-142 Vital Song (11) (C) M Dare 11-12-7 ... G Matthews (7) 89
3 -03310 Dalamoire (16) (D) M Evans 11-12-4 ... M Mansfield (7) 85
4 04003P Carrolly-Na-Gir (24) (D) M J Gingell 9-12-0 ... M Gingell (7) ★ 82
5 -P0526 Doctor-J (16) (D) D Gibbs 8-12-0 ... J Pritchard (7) ★ 81
6 -P2U42 B Bambino (18) (D) H Manners 10-12-0 ... A Charles-Jones (7) 86
7 3PF563 Prince Nepal (16) T Hopkins 14-12-0 ... S Sheldon (7) ★ 83
8 4-UPF4 Scally Blue (16) Mrs P Grainger 7-12-0 ... M Harris (7) 82
9 -PP271 Warren Boy (15) T L Jones 8-12-0 ... A Dalton (7) 87
10 PUPPR Eskiou (18) Mrs P Shaw 7-11-9 ... Miss M Coombe (7) 81
11 PP/PR Ernest's Vision (73) R Hodges 8-11-9 ... J Crowley (7) 79

Betting: 5-2 Bussman, 3-1 Warren Boy, 5-1 Vital Song, 6-1 B Bambino, 7-1 Dalamoire, 12-1 Prince Nepal, 16-1 Scally Blue.

### Cheltenham trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer at Cheltenham today — 5.25 Ashmead Rambler, P Hobbs to W Bush, Ballyhannon, M Hourigan to E Froggatt, Cedar Square, A Hewat to V Dartnall, Hell's Hill, C McGrath to J Porter and The Flasher, Mrs J Harrington to P Harries; 6.00 Tecton Mill, Mrs C Bailey to Miss V Williams; 6.35 Mekrusylie, H Lewis to C Warner and Orwell Rose, F Kirby to J Tulloch; 7.10 Blank Cheque, M Williamson to J Coates and Glenbricken, Mrs A Johnson to N King; 7.45 Mystic Minnie, A Turnell to Mrs R Matheson; 8.15 Ernest's Vision, M Avison to R Hodges.

## Exeter (N.H.)

| | CHRIS HAWKINS | TOP FORM |
|---|---|---|
| 2.20 | — | Brighstone |
| 2.55 | — | Pfair Better (nap) |
| 3.30 | — | River Bay |
| 4.00 | — | Grafossi |
| 4.30 | — | Handy Lass |
| 5.05 | — | Sprig Muslin |

Testing, right-handed circuit of 2m with 300yds run-in. Undulating, with a home straight of half-a-mile.
Going: Soft, heavy in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Enchanted Cottage (4.30) K Bridgwater, Warwickshire, 167 miles.
Seven day winners: 4.00 Mr Playfull.
Blinkered or visored first time: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

**2.20** BODMIN NOVICE SELLING HURDLE
2m 2f £1,630 (6 declared)

1 21013 Brighstone (55) (BF) M Pipe 5-12-0 ... A Thornton ●90
2 04-0P Arctic Courier (50) B Millman 8-11-0 ... D Salter (3) 85
3 00003 Buy My Pip (35) H Webb 5-11-0 ... D J Moffatt 82
4 00 Monticello (16) M Meggarridge 6-11-0 ... S Crouch (7) 86
5 P- Nigels Choice (F338) A D Smith 6-11-0 ... R Farrant —
6 -PF000 Sun Bloomer (16) Miss S Waterman 5-10-9 ... R Wilmington (7) —

Betting: 1-3 Brighstone, 7-1 Arctic Courier, 8-1 Buy My Pip, 10-1 Monticello.

**2.55** EXMOOR NOVICE HURDLE
2m 3f 110yds £2,444 (18 declared)

1 0/1-F3 Alhamanie (156) (BF) T Forster 7-11-7 ... S Wynne 87
2 3F1442 Go Go Henry (26) (BF) R Alner 6-11-7 ... A Thornton 84
3 /F3112 Ashmead (88) (CD) R Frost 9-11-0 ... J Frost —
4 2-04 Benefit-In-Kind (16) Miss H Knight 6-11-0 ... J Culloty 86
5 +F03FP Bandon Charger (42) Mrs S Williams 6-11-0 ... R Greene 85
6 1/ Brambleshill Cabal (1084) Miss H Knight 7-11-0 ... B Ogden —
7 3R3P Eastham Gold Dust (13) A Hobbs 5-11-0 ... G Tormey —
8 15 Kentish Bard (104) N Gaselee 6-11-0 ... W Marston 89
9 0-0005- National Fleece (8) C Popham 5-11-0 ... B Fenwick ★ —
10 22 Pfair Better (54) (BF) C Brooks 6-11-0 ... D Gallagher ●90
11 0540 Sandicom (19) M Hill 5-11-0 ... C Webb (3) —
12 33-416 Silver Strasco (38) Mrs M Jones 6-11-0 ... B Clifford 79
13 5 Surprise Gunner (44) Mrs M Jones 6-11-0 ... B Carey (7) —
14 225 The Pickled Duke (80) T George 6-11-0 ... E Hogan —
15 6-5F42 Zaggy Lass (8) P Rodford 6-11-0 ... S Burrough 84
16 0PUFFP Domestic Country (34) F Tucker 9-10-9 ... Sophie Mitchell (3) ★ —
17 00PFP Flying Artist (16) S Knight 6-10-9 ... D Salter (3) —
18 P Moonlight (8) M Pipe 7-10-9 ... J Reet (7) —

Betting: 11-4 Pfair Better, 5-1 Alhamanie, 7-1 Zaggy Lass, 8-1 Go Go Henry, Kentish Bard, 10-1 Ashmead, 12-1 Benefit-In-Kind, Moonlight.

### Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Exeter: 2.20 Nigels Choice, Miss K Whitehouse to A Smith, 5.05 Peyton Jones, Miss K Whitehouse to A Smith.
Kelso: 5.45 Rhapsody In White, M Jarvis to A Whillans; 8.00 The Moses, C Sample to Mrs V Dungait.

**3.30** COOPERS & LYBRAND NOVICE CHASE
2m 7f 110yds £3,818 (4 declared)

1 F3/211 Bold Dolphin (18) T Forster 8-12-0 ... A Thornton 88
2 122532 River Bay (16) (C) (BF) Miss H Knight 7-11-9 ... G Ogden ●90
3 31-6PF Glacial King (7) (B) K Bishop 6-11-2 ... R Greene —
4 6PP3U0 Farlytwo Dee (14) N Smith 8-10-11 ... M Sharratt 84

Betting: 4-5 River Bay, 11-10 Bold Dolphin, 25-1 Farlytwo Dee, 33-1 Glacial King.

**4.00** RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE
2m 3f 110yds £3,818 (5 declared)

1 P44014 Thumbs Up (25) (C) G McCourt 12-11-10 ... Mr O Harvey (7) 89
2 121511 Capsunary (19) (CD) J King 9-11-5 ... W Marston 87
3 -P1FP1 Mr Playfull (5) (CD) R Frost 8-11-5 (6ex) ... J Frost 86
4 03P04- Rumelor (358) (D) P Hobbs 10-10-8 ... Mr R Widger (7) —
5 F11222 Grafossi (14) (D) P Ritchens 8-10-8 ... S Fox ●90

Betting: 7-4 Grafossi, 2-1 Capsunary, 9-2 Thumbs Up, 5-1 Mr Playfull, 14-1 Rumelor.

**4.30** COOPERS & LYBRAND HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 3f 110yds £2,803 (8 declared)

1 5111UP Marine Society (42) A Hobbs 10-12-0 ... A Thornton —
2 142211 Possum Secret (11) M Pipe 5-11-11 ... G Supple (5) ★ —
3 430U12 Dalhousiehaven (13) (BF) R Frost 7-11-7 ... J Frost 85
4 25P552 Handy Lass (16) (C) (D) J King 9-11-6 ... W Marston ●90
5 216-F3 Enchanted Cottage (8) (D) K Bridgwater 6-10-13 ... M Griffiths (7) 84
6 3FF621 Sunrise Special (15) (C) P Rodford 5-10-5 ... S Burrough 84
7 2145-6 Southern Ridge (42) R Frost 7-10-5 ... Mr A Baldsworth 83
8 F12628 Lyphard's Fable (27) T George 7-10-3 ... E Husband (3) 85

Betting: 5-2 Possum Secret, 7-2 Handy Lass, 4-1 Sunrise Special, 9-2 Dalhousiehaven, 10-1 Enchanted Cottage, 12-1 Southern Ridge, Lyphard's Fable, 20-1 Marine Society.

**5.05** DARTMOOR CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 2f £1,872 (8 declared)

1 3F0211 Miss Dodos (16) (CD) M Pipe 4-12-0 ... G Supple 87
2 1/4FP1 Laghanhallen (16) (CD) R Rosi 9-11-8 T O'Connor (3) 83
3 PUFF55 Sands Point (5) C Popham 8-11-0 ... J Magee ★ —
4 13234P Spirit Level (98) J R Payne 10-10-8 ... T Buccombe 88
5 PF0-04 Supreme Crusader (23) W McKenzie-Coles 7-10-6 ... M Griffiths 83
6 3P5110U Adeeso (19) J R Hughes 10-10-6 ... P Henley 89
7 P-P523 Sprig Muslin (204) (BF) D Gandolfo 6-10-5 ... Sophie Mitchell ★ ●90
8 P00- Peyton Jones (558) A D Smith 5-10-1 ... S Graham (5) —

Betting: 2-1 Miss Dodos, 5-2 Sprig Muslin, 7-2 Laghanhallen, 7-1 Spirit Level, 10-1 Adeeso, 16-1 Supreme Crusader, 25-1 Sands Point, 33-1 Peyton Jones.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

| Jockeys | 1st | Runs | % | Level St | Trainers | 1st | Runs | % | Level St |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R Dunwoody | 33 | 136 | 24.3 | +2.72 | M Pipe | 69 | 278 | 24.8 | -7.71 |
| A McCoy | 27 | 128 | 21.1 | -0.80 | Miss Knight | 34 | 115 | 29.6 | +56.61 |
| J Dubourg | 21 | 75 | 28 | -3.11 | P Nicholls | 26 | 134 | 20.9 | -38.91 |
| B Bridgwater | 21 | 81 | 25.9 | +10.72 | R Frost | 18 | 150 | 12.0 | +22.33 |
| J Frost | 21 | 141 | 14.9 | +17.34 | R Alner | 12 | 88 | 13.6 | -11.39 |
| C Maude | 16 | 88 | 17 | +46.00 | J King | 10 | 55 | 18.2 | -1.20 |
| P Holley | 13 | 71 

## Football

**First Division:** Ipswich Town 2, Sunderland 0

# Mathie puts spoke in Sunderland's automatic flight

**Trevor Haylett**

SUNDERLAND conceded two second half goals last night to inflict damage on their promotion prospects and invite Middlesbrough to seize the automatic place behind Nottingham Forest. Ipswich could afford to miss a penalty and still administer a convincing defeat.

The Roker men finish at Swindon on Sunday but by then they could know that Middlesbrough — who host Wolves tonight — could need just a single point from their last game at home to Oxford. It looks like play-off passions for Peter Reid and his side.

Winning their final two games would have made automatic promotion a virtual certainty for Sunderland, such is their supremacy in the goal-scoring stakes. Their total includes a first-season contribution of 31 from Kevin Phillips who had agreed a contract with George Burley last summer before a financial hitch forced Ipswich to pull out.

It would have proved an expensive mistake had Burley not then invested wisely in David Johnson whose 21 goals fired Suffolk's own Premiership dream. Phillips looked the more likely of the pair to add to his tally before half-time but Richard Wright extended an arm to tip his header over.

The surface had received a significant soaking earlier in the day but that did not make an easy landing for either Phillips or Lee Clark who both needed treatment after falling badly. Nicky Summerbee's balance was true in the main and after coming inside his man early on the winger struck a firm left-foot drive which Wright was behind all the way.

Mick Stockwell, whose goal against Bury at the weekend assured Ipswich of a play-off berth for a second successive season, sprang their best attack with a wonderfully incisive pass to open Sunderland up down their right. Bobby Petta, a constant threat, should have made more of the cross on this occasion yet even so a deflection off Jody Craddock gave Lionel Perez some difficulty in making the catch.

Summerbee was fortunate to get away with no penalty when he appeared to use his arm to bring the ball under control. Right at the start of the second half he was seen to better effect when he rounded Jamie Clapham, with Mark Venus well placed to clear, as Kevin Ball charged in.

However in the next instance Ipswich were ahead. Chris Makin dallied and allowed Johnson to dig out possession and then drop an inviting ball on to the penalty spot where Matt Holland went full length to direct his header beyond Perez.

Phillips found the side netting, Niall Quinn was unable to put enough power behind his shot and very quickly Sunderland found themselves further behind. Having spurned a penalty opportunity — harshly awarded against Craddock when Johnson went tumbling — Alex Mathie turned two minutes later to score with a difficult left-foot volley.

**Ipswich** (4-4-2): Wright; Taricco, Cundy, Venus, Clapham; Stockwell, Dyer, Holland, Petta; Mathie, Johnson.
**Sunderland** (4-4-2): Perez; Holloway, Craddock, Williams, Makin; Summerbee, Clark, Ball, Johnston; Quinn, Phillips.
**Referee:** K Leach (Stafford).

● Three Lincoln City players have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association for their part in a mass brawl that marred their game at Macclesfield on April 4.

Balancing act . . . Mick Stockwell, right, manages to evade the challenge of Sunderland's Lee Clark last night

PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS KINNAIRD

# Dalglish to line up Guivarc'h beside Shearer

**Michael Walker**

NEWCASTLE United are on the verge of signing the French international Stephane Guivarc'h, the striker likely to lead France's attack in the World Cup this summer. Sources at St James' Park yesterday confirmed that a £5 million deal between Newcastle and Auxerre is close to being finalised, and that Guivarc'h is expected to line up alongside Alan Shearer in August.

His arrival would take Kenny Dalglish's spending to £28 million in his 14 months at Newcastle — although Dalglish has recouped £21 million from selling the likes of David Ginola and Faustino Asprilla — and his presence would swell further the number of Frenchmen playing for English clubs. Six years ago there was only Eric Cantona of Leeds United; today the figure is approaching 30. Marc Keller is another who will be here next season, joining West Ham from the German club Karlsruhe in the summer.

Guivarc'h, who is 27, has scored 21 times for Auxerre this season and, with France desperate for a regular goalscorer in time for the World Cup, he has emerged as Aimé Jacquet's first-choice striker. It is a belated rise to prominence. Auxerre brought Guivarc'h back from a lone spell at Rennes last summer, after he had failed to hold down a place with the then French champions, and he has scored 20 goals back in his native Brittany.

His performances have caught the attention of Manchester United and Arsenal as well as a trio of Italian clubs. Indeed Arsenal, given the French connection supplied by Arsène Wenger and six of his players on the staff at Highbury, were thought to be favourites to sign Guivarc'h. But Newcastle appear to have acted quickly and decisively for his signature.

Guivarc'h is regarded as level-headed, with a powerful shot in each foot, and his arrival in Newcastle would presumably put question marks by the Tyneside futures of the Swede Andreas Andersson and the Dane Jon Dahl Tomasson.

Keller, a 30-year-old midfielder who hopes to make France's World Cup squad, will be able to leave Karlsruhe without a transfer fee as his contract expires in June. The German club, who are battling against relegation, are also releasing the Russian forward Sergei Kiryakov.

● David Ginola said yesterday that he thought he was good enough for the World Cup. "I think I deserve a place in the squad of 22," the Tottenham player said. "I thought the best way was to play good in every game, and I think that's what I do every weekend. It's not enough, so what more can I do?"

**The French invasion**
Recent footballers playing in England

- **Arsenal** — Nicolas Anelka, Remi Garde, Gilles Grimandi, Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira
- **Barnsley** — Stéphane Mahé
- **Blackburn Rovers** — Patrick Valery
- **Bournemouth** — Franck Rolling
- **Bristol City** — Momminaïs Bokoto
- **Carlisle United** — Stéphane Pounewatchy
- **Chelsea** — Bernard Lambourde, Laurent Charvet, Frank Leboeuf
- **Crystal Palace** — Fabrice Jarrier
- **Everton** — Michael Ansiau
- **Leeds United** — Pierre Laurent
- **Leicester City** — Frédéric Aghulhon
- **Newcastle United** — Stéphane Guivarc'h, David Terfaï
- **Nottingham Forest** — Thierry Rouvière
- **Oxford United** — Christophe Darras
- **Sunderland** — Lionel Perez
- **Swindon Town** — Philippe Cuervo, Frédéric Danas
- **Tottenham Hotspur** — David Ginola
- **Walsall** — Roger Boli, Jean Eydelie, Jeff Peron, Didier Tholon
- **West Ham United** — Samassi Abou, Marc Keller, Bernard Lama

# Chelsea's opponents send back 11,000 tickets for European final

CHELSEA's Cup Winners' Cup final opponents, Stuttgart, have returned 11,000 of their 12,000 tickets for the game in Sweden but none has been made directly available to the English club.

Chelsea have their own allocation of 12,000 tickets for the 34,000-capacity stadium in Stockholm on May 13 and the Swedish FA who as hosts had already received 6,000 now have the German batch as well, which may boost the trade of touts as Chelsea fans try to avoid buying expensive all-in packages.

England's coach Glenn Hoddle has begun legal action after allegations made by the spoon-bender Uri Geller. Hoddle is seeking an injunction and damages for libel and malicious falsehood.

Ronaldo was yesterday banned for two games by the Italian League for criticising the referee after his side Internazionale lost 1–0 to Juventus in a controversial top-of-the-table clash in Turin on Sunday.

Real Madrid may sign Lazio's coach Sven Eriksson as a replacement for Jupp Heynckes, it was reported in Spain yesterday. The speculation is that only a victory over Juventus in the Champions League final will be enough to keep Heynckes in his job.

Tranmere Rovers 3, Sheffield United 3

# Blades rally salvages a vital point

**Derek Potter**

TIME is running out for Sheffield United and the clock seemed to stand still for some players in embarrassing spells at Prenton Park last night.

Their failure to win away for the first time in five months means that United must resume the search for the two points that should ensure a place in the play-offs at Crewe Alexandra tomorrow, or failing that at Stockport County on Sunday, the fourth game for United in eight demanding days.

A goal behind after only 10 minutes, they grabbed a vital equaliser only seconds from the end when Paul Devlin finally beat the Tranmere defence.

Dog has bitten lumps out of dog in Division One for most of the season. Even Manchester City, one of the bottom dogs, beat Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough before the two teams became involved in the photo-finish for promotion. Tranmere have bitten themselves for much of the season, only recently climbing free of the relegation zone with five points from the last three games.

Their manager John Aldridge urged a fighting finish to the season in this match and against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday, when Aldridge threatens to make one final appearance. That would put the former Republic of Ireland striker, at 39 and seven months, ahead of George Payne in longevity.

Aldridge would have enjoyed being in the thick of the confusion in the United goalmouth after 10 minutes. Simon Tracey, replacing the injured Alan Kelly, lost control of a high cross by Dariusz Kubicki and Liam O'Brien prodded the mud-embedded ball home to claim only his third League goal in 39 games.

John Morrissey scooped a miskick by Tracey wide from long range before the goalkeeper at last got things right saving neatly from Andy Parkinson. Such an early setback was a challenge to United's resolve to make a back-door entry into the Premier League via the play-offs.

The goal was especially painful to United as it came only seconds after Steve Simonsen had blocked a header and then saved a shot by the central defender Dave Holdsworth, up for a corner.

It was not a match of textbook defending, United at least having an anxiety complex as their excuse, and Dean Saunders was left unmarked to meet a centre by Graham Stuart and head United back into contention with a precious point.

**Tranmere Rovers** (4-4-2): Simonsen; Kubicki, McGreal, Hill (Mahon, 8min), Thompson; Parkinson, Morrissey, Mellon, G Jones; O'Brien, L Jones.
**Sheffield United** (4-4-2): Tracey; Wilder (Morris 65), Holdsworth, Sandford, Nilsen; Devlin, M Marker, Hamilton, Quinn; Saunders, Stuart.
**Referee:** T Heilbron (Newton Aycliffe).

# Leeds ready to sign Mahlas

**Ian Ross**

LEEDS UNITED are ready to enter a Dutch auction in the hope of signing one of European football's leading young strikers, the Greece international Nikos Mahlas. The 24-year-old plays in Holland in the First Division for Vitesse Arnhem but wants to move to England before next season.

The Leeds manager George Graham travelled to Holland at the weekend to watch Mahlas, who has scored 30 goals this season, in Arnhem's 2–0 defeat by Ajax.

Although Arnhem value their most prized asset at £4.5 million, Graham is confident he could broker a deal worth around £3 million.

John Spencer's proposed £1.5 million transfer between Queens Park Rangers and Everton has been put on ice until after Everton's final Premiership game against Coventry City on Sunday week.

Ian Wright is not in the Arsenal squad for tonight's visit of Derby despite playing for an hour in a reserve match on Monday night after four months out injured.

The West Bromwich Albion defender Shane Nicholson, who said he was a "frequent user of amphetamines over a period of years" was sacked yesterday after he admitted a drugs misconduct charge for failing to submit to a test.

# Maracana brimming as Ronaldo comes home

**Alex Bellos** in Rio de Janeiro savours the prospect of Brazil v Argentina tonight

MORE than 100,000 Brazilian fans are expected to fill the Maracana stadium here tonight for their last chance to see the team before they defend the World Cup in June and their first to see Ronaldo in the national shirt in the spiritual home of the game in Brazil.

It is nominally a friendly but, as Brazil's opponents are Argentina, it may not be that. Both sides will be anxious to give themselves a fillip for France. They are two of the favourites to break the custom of European teams winning in Europe.

On-paper Brazil are the best team in the world. At least they have the best two players in the world: Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, first and second in Fifa's Footballer-of-the-Year rankings. But after a turbulent few months they will be looking to regroup for France and to prove they are as good as their individual talents promise.

Ronaldo, currently with Internazionale, has spent almost all his professional career in Europe. He will be partnered up front by Romario, acclaimed as the best player in the last World Cup who, although now 32, is still lethal in and around the penalty area. Supporting them on the wing is the team's youngest player, the 20-year-old Denilson, whose dribbling skills and speed are stirring memories here of Garrincha.

Victory is far from assured, though. The old story that Brazil are their own worst enemy has been given fresh life this year. Mario Zagallo, the national coach, is far from popular. His World Cup record is second to none: every time Brazil have won he has been involved — as player in 1958 and 1962, as coach in 1970 and as assistant coach in 1994. But at 66 he is widely seen as too old.

After the 1–0 defeat by the United States in the Gold Cup in February he was the victim of a "Turnip" style campaign. To try to restore faith the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), against his wishes, appointed the veteran player Zico as his No. 2.

Brazil does not just expect its team to win; it expects them to win with style. Zagallo's tactics are often criticised as boring and his defenders Junior Baiano and Aldair and the goalkeeper Taffarel are seen as weak links.

Even Pele has had a dig at the team's preparation, accusing the squad of arrogance and suggesting they should take playing together more seriously.

Brazil have played only one other friendly since February — a 2–1 win against Germany in Stuttgart. Most other teams have been at least twice as busy. Argentina have played Israel and Ireland in the last fortnight.

Although there has been trouble in past World Cups over players having their attention divided by agents trying to negotiate transfers to new clubs, the CBF has declined to ban cellular phones, thus enabling agents to be in permanent contact with members of the squad.

Argentina will not be underestimated. Their squad includes Ortega, seen by his fellow countrymen as the new Maradona, Ronaldo's Inter team-mate Simeone and Fiorentina's Batistuta. They will also be eager to prove that their defeat by Israel a fortnight ago was an aberration. Where better to do this than in the home of their biggest rivals? It could be the trailer to a semi-final meeting on July 7 in Marseille.

## Results

### Football

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE**

**First Division**

**Ipswich (0) 2** — **Sunderland (0) 0**
Holland 48, Mathie 61 — 20,902

**Tranmere (1) 3** — **Sheff Utd (0) 3**
O'Brien 10, G Jones 64 — Quinn 52
Parkinson 66 — Saunders 78
7,526 — Devlin 90

**Second Division**

**Chesterfield (1) 2** — **Burnley (3) 3**
Jepson 27, Rickers 76 — Cooke 25, Weller 32, Little 38
Alliott 77 — 9,781

**Watford (0) 2** — **Bournemouth (1) 1**
Lee 47, Noel-Williams 69 — Stein 14
12,834

**GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE:** Hayes 3 Woking 0; Morecambe 3 Stalybridge 1; Rushden & D'monds 0 Welling 1; Slough 1 Leek Tn 1; Southport 1 Telford 2; Yeovil 4 Dover 1.
**RYMAN LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Boreham Wood 2 Aylesbury 1.
**DR MARTENS LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Gresley Rvrs 0 Cambridge C 1.
**PONTINS LEAGUE:** First Division: Man C 3 Notts County 3. Second Division: Rochdale 2 Shrewsbury 3.
**S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE:** First Division: Southend Utd 1 Cambridge Utd 1
**LEAGUE OF WALES:** Newtown 4 Aberystwyth 0.
**IRISH LEAGUE:** Coca-Cola Floodlit Cup: Final: Cliftonville 0 Lintfield 2.

### Rugby Union

**ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP:** Ones: Bath 20 Lon Irish 3.
**WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE:** First Division: Pontypool 23 Cross Keys 14; Treorchy 31 UWIC (Cardiff Inst) 14.

### Rugby League

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE:** First Division: Eastmoor 11 Thornhill 24; Shaw Cross 14 Oulton 34.
**ALLIANCE:** St Helens 48 Huddersfield 18; Halifax 6 Wigan 56.

### Tennis

**ATP BUNICH OPEN:** First round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 2–6, 6–4, 6–0; G Blanco (Sp) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6–1, 7–6; C Van Garsse (Bel) bt B Steven (NZ) 7–6, 6–1; T Enqvist (Swe) bt M Norman (Swe) 7–5, 6–3; M Rosset (Switz) bt T Haas (Ger) 6–3, 6–7, 6–4; A Agassi (US) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6–1, 3–6, 6–3; R Schuttler (Ger) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6–4, 7–6
**ATP CZECH OPEN (Prague):** First round: R Vasek (Cz) bt K Kucera (Slovak) 6–2, 1–6, 6–2; F Vincente (Sp) bt J Burillo (Sp) 6–1, 6–2; D Pescariu (Rom) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6–3, 7–5; F Meligeni (Br) bt A Cherkasov (Rus) 6–4, 6–3; P Korda (Cz) bt P Kralert (Cz) 6–2, 6–1; M Steiner (Ger) bt T Nurminen (Fin) 6–2, 4–6, 6–3; M Tabara (Cz) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7–6, 2–6, 7–5; J Diaz (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6–2, 6–4; R Furlan (It) bt C Pioline (Fr) 0–6, 6–1, 6–2; C Dosedel (Cz) bt S Schalken (Neth) 2–6, 7–6, 6–1, A Olsanskiy (Rus) bt J Yzerange (US) 7–6, 6–3; G Schaller (Aut) bt M Goellner (Ger) 7–6, 6–1.
**ATP CHALLENGE (Atlanta):** First round: J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt L Horna (Peru) 6–3, 6–4; D van Scheppingen (Neth) bt V Spadea (US) 6–3, 4–6, 7–5; J-M Gambill (US) bt M Cabiela (Arg) 0–6, 7–6, 7–5; J Van Herck (Bel) bt G Pozzi (It) 6–2, 6–4; W Black (Zim) bt J Palmer (US) 4–6, 6–2, 6–1; J van Lottum (Neth) bt M Craca (Ger) 4–6, 6–3, 6–2; D Sanguinetti (It) bt M Knowles (Bah) 6–3, 6–2.
**WTA CROATIAN OPEN** (Bol): First round: A Mauresmo (Fr) bt N Vaidyanathan (Ind) 6–1, 7–5; S Talaja (Cro) bt S Pitschke (Aut) 1–6, 6–2, 6–2; T Krizan (Slo) bt F Li (China) 6–4, 6–1; Y Tanhkin (Japan) bt L Nemeckova (Cz) 6–2, 6–3; S Cecchini (It) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6–1, 6–7, 6–1, L Gheorghi-Rodale (Fr) bt J Kostanic (Cro) 7–5, 5–7, 6–4; R Sands (Rom) bt K Studenikova (Slovak) 3–6, 6–4, 6–1; S Kleinova (Cz) bt L Golarska (It) 6–3, 6–1; M Tabara (Cz) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7–6, 2–6, 7–5; J Diaz (Sp) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6–2, 6–4; J Kruger (SA) bt I Selyutina (Kaz) 6–3, 6–4; P Suarez (Arg) bt G Leon-Garcia (Sp) 4–6, 6–3, 7–5; C Black (Zim) bt D Krstulovic (Cro) 6–4, 6–2; M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6–3, 7–6; T Panova (Rus) bt M A Sanchez-Lorenzo (Sp) 6–2, 6–4. To be continued tomorrow due to rains M Lucic (Cro) v K Brandi 5–2; M J Fernandez (US) v F Lubiani (It).
**WTA SWISS** (Hamburg): First round: J Halard (Fr) bt W Probst (Ger) 6–4, 6–0; B Schett (Aut) bt M Babel (Ger) 6–4, 6–4; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6–0, 3–6, 6–0; H Nagyova (Slovak) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6–1, 5–7, 6–3, M Serna (Sp) bt S Kloesel (Ger) 7–6, 6–0; J Capriati (US) bt F Labat (Arg) 6–2, 6–4.
**LADIES 10,000 EVENT** (Hatfield): First round: J Pullin (GB) bt E Lebescond (Fr) 7–6, 6–2; M Krbova (Cz) bt K Karner (Ger) 6–0, 6–2; J Moore (GB) bt H Crook (GB) 6–1, 4–6, 6–0; S Sfar (Tun) bt N Payne (GB) 7–5, 6–4; G Contis (Arg) bt K Marent (Aus) 6–3, 6–4; D Muscolino (Arg) bt E Krutko (Lat) 6–2, 6–1; M Ramos (Sp) bt B Loogen (Ger) 6–2, 6–1; P Van Acker (Bel) bt C Seal (GB) 6–0, 6–1; N Egorova (Rus) bt S Testard (Fr) 6–1, 3–6, 6–4; P Garcia (Sp) bt H Reesby (GB) 6–2, 6–2; L Jelks (GB) bt K Elliott (GB) 6–4, 6–4; J Halbauer (Ger) bt L Latimer (GB) 6–3, 6–3; C Dorlhiac (Fr) bt A James (GB) 4–6, 6–3, 6–1; J Chaudhary (GB) bt K Warne-Holland (GB) 6–3, 6–3; L Cartwright (GB) bt L Gabia (Isr) 6–0, 3–6, 6–1; L Ahl (GB) bt L Perkins (GB) 6–3, 6–4.

### Basketball

**NBA:** Play-offs: Eastern Conference: Cleveland 86 Indiana 77 (Indiana lead series 2–1). Western Conference: San Antonio 100 Phoenix 88 (San Antonio lead series 2–1).

### Baseball

**AMERICAN LEAGUE:** Boston 6 Detroit 5; Baltimore 1 Anaheim 3; Tampa Bay 6 Oakland 7; NY Yankees 1 Toronto 0; Chicago WS 10 Cleveland 3; Minnesota 4 Texas 9. Postponed: Kansas City v Seattle.
**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** NY Mets 3 Houston 4; Cincinnati 3 Philadelphia 1; St Louis 7 Montreal 0; Colorado 4 Florida 5 (in 10); Arizona 5 Atlanta 6; Los Angeles 2 Milwaukee 3 (in 13); San Diego 1 Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 6 Pittsburgh 5.

### Cricket

**BENSON AND HEDGES CUP:** Taunton: Somerset v Kent. No play, rain (1pt each). **OTHER MATCH:** The Parks: British Universities v Northamptonshire. No play, rain.
**SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP** (11.0): Hinckley: Leicestershire 191–2 (S A Richardson 54, D I Stevens 103no) v Gloucestershire. Kenilworth & Derridge: Warwickshire 159–4 (M J Powell 71no) v Hampshire.
**AON TROPHY:** Saffron Walden: Essex 194–8 (J Powell 41). Kent 164 (J Hockley 62). Essex won by 30 runs.

### Cycling

**WORLD RANKINGS:** Top 10: 1, L Jalabert (Fr) 2,294.00pts; 2, M Bartoli (It) 1,765.00; 3, A Tchmil (Bel) 1,560.00; 4, J Ullrich (Ger) 1,518.00; 5, P Tonkov (Rus) 1,448.00; 6, A Zulle (Switz) 1,386.00; 7, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 1,361.00; 8, E Zabel (Ger) 1,122.00; 9, A Tafi (It) 1,103.50; 10, A Elli (It) 1,089.00.

### Ice Hockey

**NHL:** First-round play-offs: Eastern Conference: Buffalo 6 Philadelphia 1 (Buffalo lead series 2–1); Montreal 3 Pittsburgh 1 (Montreal lead series 2–1). Western Conference: Los Angeles 3 St Louis 4 (St Louis lead series 3–0).

### Real Tennis

**BORDEAUX WEEK** (Merignac). Coupe de Bordeaux: Semi-finals: M Pendrigh (GB) bt A Roberts-Miller (GB) 6–2, 6–3; B Wilcocks (GB) bt J-G Prats (Fr) 6–2 6–3. Flash Wilcocks bt Pendrigh 5–6, 6–4, 6–2, 6–2. Doubles: Flash Pendrigh/Prats bt Wilcocks/Roberts-Miller 6–4, 6–4. 20th Anniversary: Flash D Frost (GB) bt L Derouneau (Fr) 8–4. Kremsmann Trophy: Flash D Rowley (GB) bt J Evans (GB) 8–4.

### Snooker

**EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** (Sheffield): Quarter-finals: R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads J White (Eng) 7–1; M Williams (Wales) leads P Ebdon (Eng) 5–3.

### Table Tennis

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS** (Eindhoven): Women's team final: Germany 4 Hungary 3.

### Evening Racing

**ASCOT**

**5.30 (2m):** 1, KAU DE COLOGNE, J A McCarthy (5–1); 2, Tempetoo (11–4 Fav); 3, Nigel's Lad (7–2). 7 ran. 5, 9. (Mrs L Richards) Tote: £6.40; £2.40, £2.00. Dual F: £9.00. CSF: £16.72. Tricast: £46.34. NR: Go Ballistic. **6.00 (2m):** 1, STORM ALERT, A Maguire (7–4 Fav); 2, Saraqueera Boy (11–4); 3, Cumbrian Challenge (2–1). 5 ran. 3, 8. (D Nicholson) Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £1.20. Dual F: £2.80. CSF: £6.21. NR: Indian Jockey. **6.30 (3m 110yds):** 1, CLEVER REMARK, C Maude (8–1); 2, Freddie Black (13–2); 3, Mystic Isle (11–1). 100–30 Fav Feels Like Gold. 9 ran. 4, 1¼ (J Old) Tote: £7.30; £2.10, £1.70, £3.70 Dual F: £22.60. Trio: £28.10. CSF: £38.04 Tricast: £357.71. **7.05 (2m 110yds):** 1, COULTHARD, W Marston (11–1); 2, Another Night (11–2); 3, Blackwell (2–1 Fav). 5 ran. 1¾, 13 (Mrs P Sly) Tote: £11.00; £3.00, £2.40. Dual F: £19.10. CSF: £55.18 **7.35 (2m 3f 110yds):** 1, ERINS BAR, A Bates (33–1); 2, Sleningburst Flyer (9–1); 3, Steve Ford (9–2). 7–2 Fav Millersford. 9 ran. 6, 3¼. (C Millington) Tote: £40.30; £7.10, £1.60, £1.70. Dual F: £90.60. Trio: £191.90 CSF: £254.16. **8.05 (2m 4f):** 1, SUPREME CHARM, W Walsh (9–2); 2, Native Player (7–1); 3, Mr Markham (6–1). 2–1 Fav Better Offer. 11 ran. 1, 11. (K Bailey) Tote: £5.90; £1.60, £2.90, £2.10. Dual F: £18.20. Trio: £52.90. CSF: £33.80. NR: Smuggling. **QUADPOT:** (488.60) **PLACEPOT:** £729.60.

**HUNTINGDON**

**5.15 (3m):** 1, TINTOPS, Miss S Vickery (11–4); 2, Rightsaidfred (9–2); 3, Lochnagrim (6–4 Fav). 8 ran. K, 11. (Mrs R Vickery) Tote: £5.00; £1.20, £1.80, £1.80. Dual F: £21.20. CSF: £15.42. **5.45 (3m):** 1, MARTHA'S BOY, Mr Stuart Robinson (1–3 Fav); 2, Rob Nine (4–1); 3, Elsoro (20–1). 10 ran. 4, 12. (Mrs M Robinson) Tote: £1.20; £1.30, £1.10, £2.80. Dual F: £3.10 Trio: £10.60. CSF: £1.89. **6.15 (3m):** 1, MUPERTS CHOICE, Mr S Sporborg (5–2 Fav); 2, Kelly's Original (5–1); 3, Military Man (16–1). 12 ran. ¾, 6. (C Sporborg) Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £1.80, £2.20. Dual F: £5.80. Trio: £24.00. CSF: £14.17. NR: Colourful Boy, Oliver Himself. **6.45 (2m 110yds):** 1, SURSUM CORDA, Capt C Ward Thomas (1–2 Fav); 2, A Day On The Dub (14–1); 3, Digital Option (11–1). 9 ran. 1¼, hd. (Capt T Forster) Tote: £1.40; £1.00, £3.10, £1.90. Dual F: £4.10. 'Trio' £5.00. CSF: £10.82. **7.20 (2m 4f 110yds):** 1, DOUBLE COLLECT, Mr S Durack (5–2 Fav); 2, Repeat The Dose (11–2); 3, Dreamstick (20–1). 13 ran. 4, 25. (Mrs M Reburn) Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £2.30, £3.50. Dual F: £6.30. Trio: £31.10. CSF: £14.51. **7.50 (2m 6f 110yds):** 1, SEIZE THE DAY, Miss M Coombe (6–4 Fav). 2, Drama King (8–1); 3, Kreef (5–2). 6 ran. 3, 2. (M Coombe) Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £2.00, £1.30. Dual F: £7.70. CSF: £15.21. Tricast: £30.89.
**QUADPOT:** £3.00. **PLACEPOT:** £4.00.

## Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

### Football

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP:** Arsenal v Derby (8.0); Chelsea v Blackburn (7.45), Coventry v Wimbledon (7.45); Leicester v Newcastle (7.45).
**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE:** First Division: Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton (7.45).
**SCOTTISH LEAGUE:** Third Division: Albion v Arbroath (6.30).
**GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE:** Farnborough v Cheltenham (7.45).
**UNIBOND LEAGUE:** First Division: Bradford PA v Congleton Tn; Gt Harwood Tn v Grelna; Netherfield v Whitley Bay; Whitby Tn v Stocksbridge PS. Challenge Cup: Final: Altrincham v Gainsborough (7.30; Chesterfield). FdB Blenders Cup: Final: Basingstoke v Hendon (7.30; Chesham Utd).
**RYMAN LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Dulwich v Harrow Bor. First Division: Croydon v Berkhamsted Tn. Third Division: Tring Tn v Hertford Tn; Dorking v Lewes.
**DR MARTENS LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Forest Green v Merthyr (7.45); Salisbury v Rothwell Tn (7.45). Midland Division: Ilkeston Tn v Redditch Utd; Paget Rngrs v Blakenall; Raunds Tn v Evesham Utd, Solihull Bor v Corby Tn. Southern Division: Dartford v Chelmsford C; Yate Tn v Fareham Tn.
**N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE:** First Division: Atherton Collieries v Nantwich Tn.
**ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE:** First Division: Dunston Federation v Penrith; Jarrow Roofing v Consett; Morpeth Tn v RTM Newcastle; Tow Law Tn v Bedlington Terriers.
**SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Bridport v Mangotsfield Utd; Chippenham Tn v Chard Tn.
**PONTINS LEAGUE:** Premier Division: Leeds v Liverpool (7.0); Notts Forest v Man Utd (7.0); Tranmere v Stoke (7.0). First Division: Oldham v Huddersfield (7.0), Port Vale v Middlesbrough (7.0). Second Division: Barnsley v Burnley (7.0); Blackpool v Bradford (7.0); Carlisle v Lincoln (7.0); Sheff Utd v Stockport (7.0); Wrexham v Rochdale (7.0); York v Shrewsbury (7.0). Third Division: Wigan v Chesterfield (7.0).
**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:** First Division: Charlton v Portsmouth (2.0); Ipswich v Chelsea (7.0); Southampton v Wimbledon; Watford v Swindon.
**S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE:** Cup: Final, first leg: Luton v West Ham (7.0).
**LEAGUE OF WALES:** Caernarfon Tn v TNS; Conwy v Bangor C.

### Rugby Union

**ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP:** One: Harlequins v Saracens; Wasps v Leicester (7.45).
**TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP:** Division 2B: Preston Lodge v Biggar.

### Rugby League

**SECOND DIVISION:** Bramley v Lancashire Lynx (7.45).
**NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE:** Second Division: Hull Dockers v New Earswick (7.0).
**ALLIANCE:** Hunslet v Salford (8.0).

### Cricket

**BENSON AND HEDGES CUP** (11.0: one day): Cardiff: Glamorgan v Essex. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Warwickshire. Lord's: Middlesex v Sussex. Leicester: Minor Counties v Northamptonshire

## Sport in brief

### Commonwealth Games

New Zealand will take a medical team of 12, their largest ever to a Games, to Kuala Lumpur in September because of the pollution. The team doctor Richard Edmond said that "breathing the smog there at the moment is reportedly the equivalent of smoking 1,000 cigarettes a month".

### Ice Hockey

Manchester Storm and the Superleague champions Ayr Scottish Eagles will represent Britain in the 24-team European League which begins its third season in September, *writes Vic Batchelder*.

### Cricket

Cricket Max, the revolutionary game pioneered in New Zealand, will be unveiled in England on Monday. Lancashire are to stage a 16-overs exhibition game at Old Trafford as part of the club's open day. The main feature is a 'max zone', painted on to the outfield, where a direct shot scores 12 runs.

### Hockey

David Wiggins, the hockey writer and formerly a regular contributor to the Guardian, has died, aged 75. He was married to the actress Beryl Marsh.

### Football

Keith Blunt, a former coach of England's under-16 team and a top technical official within the FA, has been appointed coach of the Chinese Olympic team.

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Rugby Union

# Final end to Dallaglio season

**Robert Armstrong**

LAWRENCE Dallaglio is set to play just one more game this season, leading Wasps in the Tetley's Bitter Cup final against Saracens at Twickenham on Saturday week. The England captain will be rested for tonight's Premiership One match against Leicester at Loftus Road and will probably also miss Saturday's game at Richmond.

Dallaglio has all but ruled himself out of England's summer tour to the southern hemisphere on the grounds that he needs an operation on a long-standing shoulder injury. Yesterday he hinted that the England coach Clive Woodward will award caps to several emerging players who, Dallaglio said, would prove as "competitive" as the more established stars.

One England newcomer could be Wasps' Joe Worsley who joins Peter Scrivener and Buster White in the back row tonight. Paul Sampson, Wasps 20-year-old wing/full-back, is also likely to be in Woodward's selection which will be announced at Twickenham on May 12.

Saracens' England scrum-half Kyran Bracken has recovered from a groin injury and returns at The Stoop tonight to help his club's push for a league and cup double. Struggling Harlequins will be without their captain Keith Wood, the No. 8 Chris Sheasby and full-back Scott Stewart who are all injured.

Stuart Davies, of Swansea, is out of Wales's tour to South Africa this summer with a career-threatening neck injury. The No. 8 has been told he will need an operation.

The 32-year-old hurt his neck in the 51-0 defeat by France at Wembley earlier this month.

Ireland have also been weakened for their seven-match tour of South Africa which they will tackle without three leading players. Wood, of Harlequins, the Leicester No. 8 Eric Miller and London Irish lock Jeremy Davidson miss out because of injury or exhaustion. The Saracens lock Paddy Johns replaces Wood as captain.

There are seven uncapped players: the scrum-half Derek Hegarty, the back-row forwards David Wallace, Dion O'Cuinneagain and Trevor Brennan, hooker Bernard Jackman and the props John Hayes and Justin Fitzpatrick.

Newport have informed the Welsh Rugby Union they intend to take action after their scrum-half Nicky Lloyd suffered an eye injury during last Saturday's Swalec Cup semi-final against Ebbw Vale. Lloyd underwent surgery for a torn tear duct and had 10 stitches inserted in three separate areas around his eye. He was hurt 15 minutes into the tie, which Vale won 44–10.

Camberley have been confirmed as champions of National League Two South after successfully appealing against a six-point deduction imposed for fielding two ineligible overseas players.

Chris White is to referee the Tetley's Bitter Cup final. The 33-year-old schoolteacher from Cheltenham was in charge of the Student World Cup final between South Africa and France at Ellis Park.

**IRELAND TOUR: May 30 Boland (at Wellington). June 3 South-west District (George); 6 Western Province (Cape Town); 9 Griqualand West (Kimberley); 13 South Africa (Bloemfontein); 16 North West, Potchefstroom; 20 South Africa, Pretoria.**

**Premiership:** Bath 20, London Irish 3

# Three-try Bath halt the slide

BATH, purposeful and muscular, stopped the rot with a morale-building display to grab their first victory in five league games in front of a 6,000 crowd at the Recreation Ground last night.

The lacklustre Irish never recovered from the early blow of tries by Rich Butland and Ieuan Evans whose sharp, inventive play reflected the spirit of enterprise throughout the Bath team.

The European champions produced the pride and commitment demanded by their captain Andy Nicol, who rounded off the win with a shrewdly worked personal try. Bath still have three away games to come, including what could be a title decider at Newcastle on May 11.

Bath led after catching a casual Irish defence neatly by surprise. Phil de Glanville broke from near halfway, drew the cover and unloaded to the fly-half Butland who deftly evaded Nick Harvey's tackle before crossing.

Five minutes later an unforced error by the Irish wing Niall Woods, who fumbled just outside his own 22, let Evans in. The Welsh wing seized on the loose ball and scooted clear to score.

Jon Callard stroked home the conversion and minutes later added a short-range penalty goal for offside to establish a decisive 15–0 lead.

Bereft of the sparkle that had earned them five wins in their previous seven games, the Exiles looked disorganised in midfield and slow to respond to Bath's astute counter-attacks. In the opening half-hour the Irish halfbacks Niall Hogan and David Humphreys failed to fashion a positive move, such was the poor quality of possession won by their forwards.

When the Irish did finally cross the Bath 22 their flanker Kevin Spicer was shown the yellow card for illegal footwork at a ruck in the left corner. A minute before half-time Woods got the Exiles off the mark with a towering penalty from 45 metres after a Bath forward killed a ruck.

Despite replacing their hooker Rob Kellam with Tony Redmond, the Exiles' pack continued to struggle. The back row's inability to generate quick clean ball at the rucks invariably gave the Bath defence too much time to regroup.

**SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Butland, Evans, Nicol. Conversions: Callard. Penalty: Callard. London Irish: Penalty: Woods.**

**Bath:** Callard; Evans, De Glanville, Perry, Adebayo; Butland, Nicol (capt); Hilton, Regan, Ubogu, Haag, Redman, Earnshaw, Thomas, Bryan.

**London Irish:** O'Shea (capt); Bishop, Venter, McCall, Woods; Humphreys, Hogan; Fitzpatrick, Kellam, Halpin, Harvey, O'Kelly, Spicer, Dawson, Fearnall.

**Referee:** J Pearson (Durham).

Benson and Hedges Cup

Balance of power . . . Graham Thorpe of Surrey cuts Shaun Udal wide of the wicketkeeper Adrian Aymes JULIAN HERBERT

Hampshire v Surrey

# Danger: cup holders at work

**Paul Weaver at Southampton**

SURREY's victory here was not quite as impressive as last summer, when they dismissed Hampshire for 63 to win by 165 runs, but it was convincing enough to suggest that it will take something exceptional to prise their white knuckles away from the cup they won in last year's one-sided final against Kent.

It was a victory constructed around the batting of Alistair Brown, Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher and the bowling of Martin Bicknell and Ian Salisbury. This is a fivering circus of a cricket team. There is danger and excitement everywhere.

This time they won by 48 runs, a comfortable margin which fails to recognise a spirited performance by Hampshire, who were without John Stephenson, Kevan James and Cardigan Connor.

They needed a heady 268 to win and while the new captain Robin Smith and Giles White were together, adding 78 in 16 overs, they looked capable of getting there. Then they lost seven wickets for 61 runs before an improbable last-wicket stand of 42 between Simon Renshaw and Adrian Aymes made matters look a little more respectable.

Smith's bludgeoning 45 from 52 deliveries included seven fours. He was third out at 116 in the 25th over, bowled by Adam Hollioake.

At 137 for three after 30 overs Hampshire still had chances, but Bicknell returned and with his first delivery dismissed White, who swung to deep square-leg where Ben Hollioake, running round from deep midwicket, took a difficult catch with nonchalant ease. The impressive White had faced 67 deliveries and struck three fours.

After that the demise was rapid. Bicknell continued his fine start to the season by returning figures of four for 38 and he was well supported by Salisbury, who hurried through the tail with three for 32.

When Surrey batted, a violent opening partnership between Alec Stewart (19) and Brown (43), who faced only 35 balls, brought up the fifty in the eighth over. They were both out in the 12th, bowled by Dimitri Mascarenhas, who was born in London and raised in Australia by his Sri Lankan parents. His four for 28 helped to disguise the depleted nature of Hampshire's attack.

The fulcrum of the Surrey innings, however, was a fourth-wicket stand of 95 in 20 overs between Thorpe (48) and the Gold Award winner Butcher (67). As a first title defence it was comfortable enough to have been negotiated by Frank Warren.

**SURREY**

| | |
|---|---|
| A D Brown c Smith b Mascarenhas | 43 |
| †A J Stewart b Mascarenhas | 19 |
| B C Hollioake c Aymes b Hartley | 13 |
| G P Thorpe c Aymes b Renshaw | 48 |
| M A Butcher c Aymes b Hartley | 67 |
| *A J Hollioake c McLean b Mascarenhas | 16 |
| J D Ratcliffe c Laney b Mascarenhas | 4 |
| N Shahid c Keech b Hartley | 16 |
| I D K Salisbury not out | 6 |
| M P Bicknell not out | 8 |
| Extras (lb17, w10) | 27 |
| Total (for 8, 50 overs) | 267 |

**Fall of wickets:** 89, 70, 86, 181, 212, 220, 252, 254.

**Did not bat:** J E Benjamin.

**Bowling:** Renshaw 10–0–59–1; McLean 10–0–61–0; Hartley 10–0–32–3; Mascarenhas 10–0–28–4; Udal 10–0–60–0.

**HAMPSHIRE**

| | |
|---|---|
| S D Udal c Ratcliffe b Bicknell | 13 |
| J S Laney c & b Bicknell | 12 |
| G W White c B C Hollioake b Bicknell | 47 |
| *R A Smith b A J Hollioake | 45 |
| M Keech lbw b Bicknell | 16 |
| P J Hartley st Stewart b Salisbury | 3 |
| A D Mascarenhas b Salisbury | 14 |
| W S Kendall lbw b Salisbury | 5 |
| †A N Aymes not out | 18 |
| N A M McLean lbw b B C Hollioake | 2 |
| S J Renshaw b B C Hollioake | 23 |
| Extras (lb9, w9, nb3) | 21 |
| Total (48.4 overs) | 219 |

**Fall of wickets:** 30, 38, 116, 137, 143, 149, 189, 172, 177.

**Bowling:** Bicknell 10–1–38–4; Benjamin 7–0–28–0; B C Hollioake 9.4–0–56–2; Butcher 5–0–19–0; A J Hollioake 7–0–39–1; Salisbury 10–1–32–3

**Umpires:** A A Jones and M J Kitchen.

**Surrey won by 48 runs.**

Derbyshire v Durham

# Collingwood cuts loose

**Andy Wilson at Derby**

IT was difficult to get excited about this victory for Durham in a low-key, rain-affected zonal match. However it was significant enough for David Boon's men, being only their fourth win out of seven against first-class opposition in this competition.

They owed the victory partly to an enterprising unbeaten 30 in 18 balls from the Gold Award winner Paul Collingwood which helped them to post a competitive total after their innings had lost momentum midway through, yet Derbyshire's poor batting helped them even more.

Michael Slater, who broke a finger on his county debut and will be out for two more weeks, was badly missed.

Heavy overnight rain delayed the start until 1.45, when Jon Lewis and John Morris gave Durham a bright start. But after Morris chipped a catch to mid-on Durham were tied down, especially by Vince Clarke, the 26-year old Scouser who joined Derbyshire from Leicestershire last summer. His leg-breaks have always been flat, and here he eschewed any pretence at spinning the ball and concentrated on tight medium pace which suited the slow pitch.

His figures would have been better had it not been for Collingwood, who swept him for six over square leg in his last over and added two fours off Paul Aldred with well-executed reverse sweeps. Those runs were to prove the difference between the teams.

There was never much urgency in the Derbyshire chase. They crawled from 46 without loss in the ninth over to 76 for four in the 21st before Clarke accelerated in a fifth-wicket partnership of 65 in 10 overs with Kim Barnett.

The tide seemed to be turning when Clarke late-cut, then swept the off-spinner James Boiling for boundaries in the 24th over, but the return of Melvyn Betts put Derbyshire on the back foot again.

Betts, leading Durham's attack in the absence of Simon Brown, who suffered a knee injury in pre-season training — bowled Barnett with a slow full-toss and ended with two for 28.

Soon afterwards Clarke, having made for 48 from 46 deliveries, was run out after a mix-up with Phil DeFreitas and Durham had taken a hesitant step towards their first quarter-final appearance. Their next game is at home to Scotland next Wednesday.

**DERBYSHIRE v DURHAM**

**DURHAM**

| | |
|---|---|
| J J B Lewis b Cork | 47 |
| M J Foster b DeFreitas | 9 |
| J E Morris c Blackwell b Harris | 21 |
| *D C Boon c Barnett b Clarke | 31 |
| N J Speak b Harris | 19 |
| †M P Speight c Harris b Clarke | 4 |
| P D Collingwood not out | 30 |
| J Boiling not out | 1 |
| Extras (b1, lb10, w4, nb8) | 23 |
| Total (for 6, 36 overs) | 185 |

**Fall of wickets:** 25, 62, 122, 128, 140, 182.

**Did not bat:** M M Betts, J Wood, S J Harmison.

**Bowling:** DeFreitas 5–0–25–1; Cork 8–0–42–1; Harris 7–0–32–2; Aldred 7–0–30–0; Clarke 7–0–38–2; Barnett 1–0–7–0.

**DERBYSHIRE**

| | |
|---|---|
| *D G Cork c Speight b Betts | 25 |
| A S Rollins c Morris b Wood | 14 |
| T A Tweats run out | 3 |
| K J Barnett b Betts | 38 |
| S D Stubbings b Foster | 7 |
| V P Clarke run out | 48 |
| P A J DeFreitas not out | 19 |
| I D Blackwell not out | 2 |
| Extras (b2, lb10, w11) | 23 |
| Total (for 6, 36 overs) | 179 |

**Fall of wickets:** 46, 47, 58, 76, 141, 168.

**Did not bat:** †K M Krikken, P Aldred, A J Harris.

**Bowling:** Betts 8–1–28–2; Harmison 6–0–36–0; Wood 7–1–22–1; Foster 7–0–37–1; Boiling 4–0–22–0; Collingwood 4–0–22–0.

**Umpires:** D Constant and J Hampshire.

**Durham won by six runs.**

Yorkshire v Worcestershire

# Hamilton all the buzz

**David Hopps at Headingley**

SCOTLAND'S formidable task to assemble a competitive squad for next summer's World Cup has resulted in several telephone calls to Gavin Hamilton. Another is due after the Yorkshire all-rounder produced the most eye-catching performance of his life.

Hamilton took four Worcestershire wickets, the last three in the space of four balls, to give Yorkshire an authority that rarely wavered, and intensified the need for him to reach a decision on his international future.

Unlike the Warwickshire all-rounder Dougie Brown, Hamilton's wavering owes more to loyalty to his county than England. To ally himself with Scotland would involve him in their trip to the Commonwealth Games in September, when Yorkshire might need him to fortify a rare championship challenge.

Eleven years have elapsed since the B & H Cup brought Yorkshire their last trophy, their victory at Lord's owing much to the serene strokeplay of Jim Love, who as Scotland's director of cricket must adopt a flexible attitude to Hamilton's position without aggravating those with more manifest loyalties.

Hamilton, born in Broxburn, bowls an attacking length and hits hard in the lower middle order. Worcestershire's captain, Tom Moody, gave him a fortunate first wicket by chopping on, but the three in his next over were worthy of his first Gold Award. Stuart Lampitt edged to David Byas at slip, Steve Rhodes was skilfully held by the wicketkeeper, Richard Blakey, and Illingworth's first-ball poke again fell to Byas.

There is little satisfaction to be had from rain-hit matches settled by the Duckworth-Lewis method, fondly referred to as the Vera Duckworth method, presumably because like the landlady of the Rovers' Return, it is enough to drive anyone to drink. Yorkshire's final requirement was 116 in 35 overs; their winning margin five wickets with 15 balls remaining.

Worcestershire had subsided to 64 for eight before their last two wickets doubled the tally. Those suspecting that Darren Gough is not yet at full throttle after hamstring problems found the England quickie eager to explain. "Hello," he said, by way of introduction. "Ah've cut mi pace 'cos it's swinging a lot."

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

| | |
|---|---|
| W P C Weston run out | 12 |
| V S Solanki c Parker b Silverwood | 10 |
| G A Hick c Byas b Gough | 3 |
| *T M Moody b Hamilton | 9 |
| G R Haynes c Blakey b Hutchison | 4 |
| D A Leatherdale lbw b Gough | 25 |
| S R Lampitt c Byas b Hamilton | 4 |
| †S J Rhodes c Blakey b Hamilton | 2 |
| R K Illingworth c Byas b Hamilton | 0 |
| P J Newport not out | 28 |
| A Sheriyar b Hutchison | 8 |
| Extras (b5, lb8, w5, nb6) | 23 |
| Total (35.5 overs) | 128 |

**Fall of wickets:** 17, 23, 32, 51, 58, 62, 64, 64, 108.

**Bowling:** Silverwood 8–2–16–1; Gough 8–1–32–2; Hamilton 8–0–33–4; Hutchison 4.5–2–9–2; White 7–1–26–0.

**YORKSHIRE**

| | |
|---|---|
| A McGrath lbw b Moody | 22 |
| M P Vaughan c Solanki b Haynes | 3 |
| *D Byas lbw b Haynes | 3 |
| D S Lehmann c Illingworth b Moody | 31 |
| C White c Solanki b Lampitt | 27 |
| B Parker not out | 19 |
| †R J Blakey not out | 2 |
| Extras (lb1, w7, nb2) | 10 |
| Total (for 5, 32.3 overs) | 119 |

**Fall of wickets:** 5, 17, 57, 90, 98.

**Did not bat:** D Gough, C E W Silverwood, G M Hamilton, P M Hutchison.

**Bowling:** Newport 7–1–15–0; Haynes 5–1–20–2; Moody 7–3–24–2; Lampitt 6–0–30–1; Sheriyar 2–0–16–0; Leatherdale 4.3–0–13–0.

**Umpires:** V A Holder and R A White.

**Yorkshire won by five wickets.**

Tennis

# Boring men again earn top whack at Wimbledon

**Stephen Bierley**

THE ATP Tour, which runs the men's professional game, is desperately attempting to woo the women into playing more joint events, but despite this the Wimbledon organisers continue to insist the men deserve higher prize money because "there is a greater demand for men's matches from the general public".

John Curry, the chairman of the All England Club, announced yesterday that the men's singles champion will receive £435,000 compared with £415,000 last year, while the women's singles champion will collect £391,500, an increase of £18,000 which further extends the gap.

"We look at the matter every year but we believe the men should have more money," said Curry. He added that a recent survey also demonstrated that more than 70 per cent of tennis followers prefer the men's game. However it is an arguement that inevitably and rightly will be won by the women, with the US Open already having accepted equality.

The current women's game is far more vibrant, with Switzerland's Martina Hingis, America's Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, and Russia's Anna Kournikova promising and beginning to deliver a fascinating series of rivalries which the men can rarely match.

The men's game is struggling to produce such interest, with the ATP Tour courting the WTA Tour with an assiduity that would have been unthinkable even two years ago.

New racket technology has greatly improved the women's game whereas men's matches, particularly on grass, can be boring and arid, with an over emphasis on the serve. Pete Sampras has been a great Wimbledon champion, but so good that few of his matches have been memorable, particularly the finals.

The overall prize money for this year's Championships has been increased by 4.7 per cent to £7,207,590. "Wimbledon is acknowledged to be one of the world's top sporting events, and it is our duty to ensure that it remains so," said Curry.

"At the same time we seek to reward everyone who competes in the Championships, be they the stars of today, tomorrow or indeed yesterday," he added. So even first-round losers in the men's singles will receive £6,530, with the women's singles taking home £4,020, again a considerable disparity.

After last year's terrible first-week weather the All England Club committee has decided that any person who has purchased a ticket will have a full refund should there be no play.

Ground passes will be refunded if there is no play on the outside courts, although if there is no play until after 6pm refunds will be limited to half the amount paid.

# Agassi makes a meal of it but cleans up the mess

**Chris Bowers in Munich**

ANDRE AGASSI today celebrates his 28th birthday on the practice courts here after a messy 6–1, 3–6, 6–3 victory over Todd Woodbridge in the BMW Open yesterday.

On a day when overnight rain, persistent drizzle and three successive three-set matches on the centre court caused Greg Rusedski's first-round match to be postponed until today, Agassi seemed to be a class ahead of Woodbridge as he stormed to the first set 6–1.

Such was the American's dominance that he took Woodbridge's first six service games, but a growing problem was that he was losing his own. Woodbridge suddenly held four times, and with a break of the Agassi serve in the eighth game, he secured the first set he has ever won against the former world No. 1.

"I wasn't prepared for Todd to start hitting over his backhand," Agassi explained afterwards. "Up to then he had sliced everything, but he's never hit through his backhand the way he did in the second set, and I wasn't ready."

With the court and balls playing increasingly heavy and the clusters of sand causing some wayward bounces, an upset looked on the cards, but Agassi struck first in the decider. He took the Australian's serve for 3–1 and never looked threatened from then on.

The result forms part of a satisfactory build-up to the French Open for Agassi, who will start at Roland Garros on May 25 as one of two men (Pete Sampras is the other) who can complete the set of all four Grand Slam titles in a career, a feat not achieved since Rod Laver did the last men's calendar year Grand Slam in 1969.

"I still need more matches," he said. "I've been practising so much better than I've been playing matches. I've been moving well, setting up the points well, and it's going to come around in matches soon, but it hasn't quite yet.

"I don't feel 100 per cent yet with my movement, with controlling the point, but it's getting better, and at any point it can take a big jump forward."

Until Saturday night, Agassi was unseeded for Munich. This week's world No. 20, he slipped into the last seeding slot when Alberto Berasategui withdrew citing injury.

Agassi now plays Rainer Schüttler of Germany, who beat the Australian veteran Mark Woodforde 6–4, 7–6.

The No. 2 seed Jonas Bjorkman recovered to beat Andrei Medvedev 2–6, 6–4, 6–0, but the twice former French Open champion Sergi Bruguera, seeded seven, crashed out to his fellow Spaniard Galo Blanco 6–1, 7–6.

Rugby League

# Cup finalists at full strength

**Andy Wilson**

SHEFFIELD and Wigan will be at full strength for Saturday's Challenge Cup final after the Eagles' Fijian full-back Waisale Sovatabua escaped suspension at a disciplinary hearing yesterday.

Sovatabua was dismissed for a high tackle at Huddersfield on Sunday and the committee deemed that sufficient.

The Eagles coach John Kear immediately announced a 20-man squad for Wembley and has Keith Senior, the 22-year-old Great Britain centre, back from suspension. Wigan's John Monie, as usual, was happy to name his team early and let the opposition do the worrying.

Henry Paul has returned unscathed from weekend international duty with New Zealand and will play at stand-off, with Andy Farrell switching back to the pack and Lee Gilmour dropping to the bench. Paul Johnson, a 19-year-old utility back who has served Wigan well in the past few weeks, scoring tries in the victories over St Helens and London, is the unlucky man who misses out completely.

**Wigan:** Radlinski; Bell, Connolly, Moore, Robinson; Paul, Smith; Holgate, McCormack, Mestrov, Betts, Haughton, Farrell. **Substitutes:** Gilmour, Cassidy, O'Connor, Cowie.

**Cricket**

Benson & Hedges Cup

News and Scores

0930 16 13 +

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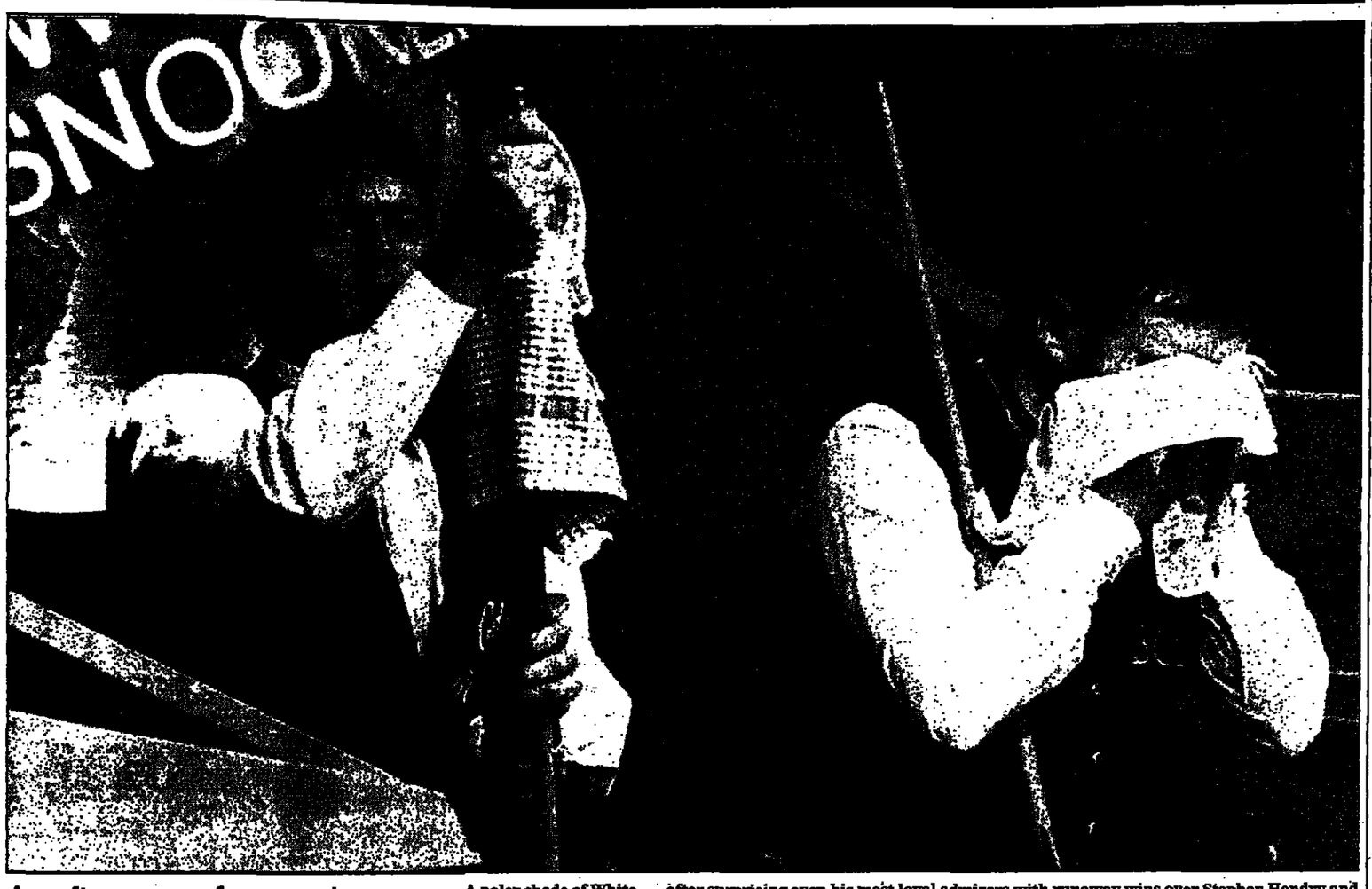
SportsGuardian

Hard grind at The Crucible



An afternoon of errors draws the devil from the whirlwind

A paler shade of White . . . after surprising even his most loyal admirers with runaway wins over Stephen Hendry and Darren Morgan in the opening rounds of the world snooker championship, Jimmy White lost the plot at the Crucible Theatre. He mops his face here during a disastrous quarter-final session against Ronnie O'Sullivan, who resumes 7–1 ahead today in the race to reach 13 frames. Clive Everton reports from Sheffield, page 13 PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

# Feeling faint and it's not the hemlock

Paul Weaver

THE national debate rages on. For my two-penn'orth I think five is far too young to be introduced to something potentially so addictive and ruinous.

It can divide families, empty your pockets and destroy your health. Football, like drugs, can tip you over the edge. I have just been attempting to analyse England's World Cup chances and a drowsy numbness pains my senses, as though of hemlock I had drunk.

Just a few weeks ago the football people of these islands were discussing serious matters, such as whether England should play a flat back-four or three, with two wing-backs; now all the talk is of whether Glenn Hoddle is a football short of a penalty shoot-out. The World Cup has become a giggle-fest. And it will not stop there. What is going on?

Yesterday we were introduced to Mystic Greg. John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, revealed his faith in the powers of astrology in the *Daily Mirror* and how he makes regular visits to his clairvoyant in Leicester. Gregory, a Taurus, also consults his stars on a regular basis.

The same paper carried the sad little story of how the TV chat show host Judy Finnigan had consulted the England football team's faith healer Eileen Drewery over a sore knee and immediately twisted her ankle so badly that she was forced to go on air barefoot. "I'm in a lot of pain," she said.

Ted Dexter could have warned Hoddle. Dexter was brave and brilliant and if he had been an officer in the trenches you would have followed him with a fixed eye and a fistful of Brooke all the way to a posthumous VC. But once Dexter, as chairman of the England cricket selectors, started talking about planetary alignments he was, for a great many people, reduced to a babbling loon.

Personally, I do not care whether Hoddle has gone as soft as a punctured Mitre. You can make a case for a number of the successful managers in football history being as mad as Lear. It would, however, be reassuring if Hoddle had football at the forefront of his mind, and not how he might bend one round Uri Geller's defensive wall.

It would be nice, too, if he silenced Ms Drewery, whose ridiculous claims include one that she cured Paul Merson's drug problem in a single meeting and another that she asked God not to let Ian Wright score in the World Cup qualifying decider in Rome to avoid crowd trouble.

Until he does so we will have to endure the reality that England's World Cup campaign has been reduced to little more than a feeding station for stand-up comics.

And wherever Hoddle goes there will be the background noise of muffled chorties, those behind-the-hand sniggers and titters we normally associate with children at church or at picnics when Grandpa has trodden in the trifle.

At the moment he is making a turnip look like a most attractive rival for the job. There is another worry. Hoddle, and this is not difficult to understand, is showing signs of being even more stubborn and secretive than he normally is.

"I don't give two monkeys what anyone thinks," he says. "The only view that counts is mine."

Being your own man is one thing. Not listening, like ostriches and Iron Ladies, is quite another. It is a weakness.

Those of us who do give two monkeys about the England football team, and how they might fare in France, are being drawn towards finding our own faith healers.

HODDLE and his helpers do not represent the only madness about. There is also a nice little story that Wimbledon Football Club, having, sadly, decided against moving to Dublin, are now looking in the direction of Hull.

This reminds me of a tale concerning that wonderful poet Philip Larkin, who should be played by Richard Wilson if they ever make a film of his life.

The marvellously miserable Larkin, the long-serving Hull librarian, was once questioned as to why he chose to live in the town.

He fixed his interrogator with a bleak eye and replied: "So I don't get bothered by the likes of you. Once journalists have found Hull on the map they decide that it's far too difficult to travel to and decide to go off and bother someone else."

# England face world rugby ban

The RFU has been ordered to a Dublin summit to spell out a battle plan to bring its upstart clubs into line, reports **Paul Rees**

ENGLAND have been told they will be expelled from world rugby union unless the militant clubs in the Premiership are brought to heel.

The governing International Rugby Board has banned the 12 clubs in Premiership One, who have mounted a legal challenge to the IRB's rules and by-laws, from having any playing contact with its 82 member nations.

If the Rugby Football Union were expelled from the IRB, it would cost the English game tens of millions because England, who are due to stage matches in next year's World Cup would be denied all international contact.

The RFU has been ordered to attend a meeting of the board's executive committee in Dublin on May 18 to explain its position and how it intends to bring into line the leading clubs, who have prepared an application to be heard soon by the European Commission seeking to have certain powers devolved from unions to clubs.

The South African, Australian and New Zealand unions have been unimpressed with the threats of English clubs to stop their players going on England's tour of the southern hemisphere this summer and have called for decisive action by the RFU, which has still to appoint a chief executive after the resignation of Tony Hallett eight months ago.

"The rugby world outside England finds it difficult to comprehend why the problems caused by a small group of individuals, whose declared intent is to destroy the existing governance of the game, have not been resolved," said the chairman of the Australian Rugby Union, Dick McGruther.

"The IRB has allowed the RFU sufficient time to sort things out. We find it a cause of concern that the RFU is in discussion with clubs whose declared aims are so clearly and unequivocally contrary to the union's constitution and the IRB's position.

"It is time for the English union to start governing. This is no longer a purely English dispute, it is affecting other countries and enough is enough."

Many of the elite clubs are owner-led and the benefactors, headed by Newcastle's Sir John Hall, have no time for protocol. Having pumped millions into club rugby, they argue that they should be allowed to do business by being allowed to organise the competitions they play in, principally the Premiership and the Heineken European Cup, rather than relying on the RFU for hand-outs.

The elite have demanded the two-division Premiership be expanded from 24 to 28 clubs; they have held talks with Welsh clubs about a joint competition, without the RFU's consent; and they are not willing to accept the IRB's by-law which gives unions the first call on players.

England's summer tour of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, which takes in four Test matches and is part of a television deal the three southern unions have signed with the Murdoch organisation, has been threatened by the potential non-availability of at least 12 players.

"The IRB's rules are there to be abided by," said the board's chairman Vernon Pugh, who last week warned the RFU it faced immediate expulsion if Cardiff, which is taking the Welsh Rugby Union to the High Court, were invited into the Premiership.

"The only mechanism for change is through the democratic process within the IRB. The major southern-hemisphere unions cannot understand why the RFU has allowed this problem to fester and, with the World Cup little more than a year away, wants things sorted out quickly.

"The board is not prepared to be dictated to by clubs. Our responsibility is to the game throughout the world, not just a small part of it, and our message to the RFU is simple: if you are not prepared to get a grip, we will. If it means expelling England from the IRB, and thereby the world game, so be it."

With so many Welsh, Irish and Scottish players contracted to Premiership clubs, the Celtic nations' summer tours are also being hit. "Scotland [who tour Australia] will be without five players, four from Newcastle," said Australia's McGruther, "and there are doubts about how many of the Ireland team will be going to South Africa. Only players who have medical clearance should be exempt from touring."

Robert Armstrong, page 15

# Hull woos the wandering Dons

**Martin Thorpe** and **Michael Walker** report on a surprising development in the south London club's search for a new home

HAVING failed in their attempt to relocate in Dublin, Wimbledon's policy of trying any port in a storm could take them to Hull.

The chairman and owner of the Third Division's Hull City, David Lloyd, yesterday revealed that he has talked with Wimbledon's joint-owner Sam Hammam about the possibility of the Premiership side moving to Humberside and playing in a new 40,000-seat stadium, alongside City and Hull Sharks rugby league club, which the ambitious Lloyd also owns.

It would be a revolutionary move in which Lloyd would effectively be buying a Premiership place and taking football nearer the American franchise system. But it is a plan which could meet a need for Wimbledon, who have been searching for their own home since leaving Plough Lane in their local borough of Merton to share Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park in 1991.

Recently Hammam said the club would wither and die unless it found its identity with a stadium of its own, encouraging bigger crowds and giving more commercial scope.

Hammam had been close to pulling off a move to Dublin until opposition from the Football Association of Ireland and Fifa forced him to reconsider the idea. There is also the possibility that Wimbledon could build a new stadium near Gatwick airport, but since the Dublin knock-back the club have been readjusting their sights.

"In my opinion, if we had a team in Hull that was winning, the support would be fanatical," said Lloyd, who knows Hammam well. "That has been proved with the rugby this season. A stadium of 30-to-40,000 would fill every match.

"I'm looking at every avenue to achieve that. And though no decisions have been made or negotiations taken place, I have spoken to Sam on the phone. I told him I was sorry Dublin did not work out too well and asked him what his options are now."

Hammam was unavailable for comment yesterday and Wimbledon's chief executive David Barnard was unwilling to say anything other than "our first priority is a return to Merton".

A proposal to move into the greyhound stadium next door to Plough Lane was recently knocked back by Hammam as being too impractical. But there is real hope at the club that after the May local elections the Labour-run Merton council will feel free to put its weight behind Wimbledon "going home".

Certainly the Premier League and the Football League have nothing in their rulebooks to prevent Wimbledon moving to Hull, though the matter would have to be approved by a vote of clubs.

However, it is too early to say how any proposed move would be structured — would Wimbledon change their name, for instance — but Lloyd stressed that he did not want to merge Wimbledon with struggling Hull City. "I want Hull City to remain as a football club."

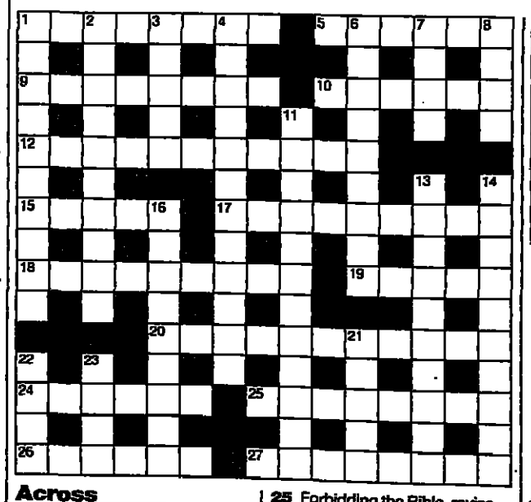
The idea of a move to Hull is opposed by the Wimbledon fans. Xavier Wiggins of the Independent Supporters Association said: "People think they can buy this Premiership franchise that is Wimbledon and transfer it and be successful. The whole thing would be an insult."

However, the idea of a club moving abroad is about to become a reality. The Scottish club Clydebank are close to finalising a deal which will see them playing in Dublin next season. And that could provide the precedent others might want to take advantage of.

'If we had a team in Hull that was winning, the support would be fanatical' – **David Lloyd**

## Guardian Crossword No 21,261

Set by Bunthorne



**Across**

1 British lion has ceded sole protection (8)
5 Silver plate a splendid backing for one of Canova's trio (6)
9 Independence worth its weight in gold. O, My! (8)
10 See 12
12,10 Tin beaks once might crack any roast chestnut, right? (3,8,6)
15 Substantial worthy licence-holder (5)
17 Vis-à-vis Carl, who composed "English Volcano" without reflection (9)
18 So Rassendyll was to face king in a lie (4-5)
19 Swelling journalist with English degree (5)
20 "Lo! No smoking" confounded mine proprietor (4,7)
24 Wreck left in the bay (5)
25 Forbidding the Bible, revise an alternative (8)
26 Penniless Luddite could be lacking concentration (5)
27 The rise and fall of Ulysses about to cross the Styx (8)

**Down**

1 Uninvolved man who absorbed art before the French (5-5)
2 "Some do it with a ——" (Wilde's draughty air?) (6,4)
3 Tuber a number found in a furrow (5)
4 Jeremiah's mental torture at the destruction of Sion (12)
6 Junk room left in bloody mess (5,4)
7 Original articles going out in a blaze of glory (4)
8 A capital band too (4)
11 High in mid-Atlantic? (4-4-4)
13 Reduce resistance lest airmen suffer (10)
14 Withholding one meant trouble in the depression (10)
16 Tell eg drug's stolen? (5,4)
21 Bloodthirsty law lord sequesters smallest state (5)
22 Lincoln died in his sleep (4)
23 The Shakespearian disposition (4)

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**Gilmour, 36, has been on the run for 15 years, sleeps with a Browning pistol under his pillow and has no idea what has happened to his daughter and son.**

G2 page 4

هكذا من الاصل